As I have already transmitted extracts from my journal to our beloved home, chiefly with a view of interesting my dear sisters, who profess themselves willing to have copies of my rough notes, I have determined to beguile in a measure the tedium of a voyage which may at this season be a long one, & continue these extracts. There will often be long intervals between the dates as my journal is frequently wholly occupied by observations relating to my immediate pursuits, & which consequently will possess no particular interest for others.

ACADEMY NAT. SCI. PHILA. MS. 104

I Commence, Decr 18th at Fort Vancouver, 1835.

The periodical rains have now commenced & we shall probably from hence forth be sufficiently deluged. I feel a sort of sensation very unlike pleasure in the prospect of being drenched every day of my life for the next 4 months, but I suppose, like others, that I should compel myself to feel thankful that the evil day has been so long deferred; so much longer indeed than usual. Through the fall & this much of the winter we have had several of the company's vessels lying here, & during this time there was a life & animation about the place which does not always exist: - but a few days since the last ship (the Lama) sailed for the coast, & we are now settling down into an apathy suited to the dreary season which is almost upon us.

A few days since Dr. McLoughlin received dispatches from Fort Walla-walla stating that Mr. Pambrun, the superintendant, had been seized & tied by the Nez Perces & Kiouses indians; that his life had been threatened, & that he was only allowed his liberty again on acceding to their demands. We have not heard specifically what these demands were, but it is believed that had reference to a reduction of the price of ammunition &c, & a consequent rise in the value of Furs & Peltries offered for sale by said indians. These tribes have long been on terms of friendship with white people, & particularly with those attached to this Company; they have long traded with them, & to a very considerable extent, but still they are savages, & if they consider - however erroniously - that their rights are infringed, or they unfairly dealt by, a powerful & withal a warlike people such as they, conscious of the superiority of their numbers will as a consequence resort to force or intimidation to maintain what they consider their rights. This is their nature, & perhaps we should not blame them, but still it is an unpleasant reflection that the weakness of the whites here is such that the indians can gain by open force & violence what would not be granted them on other terms. They have it in their power to enforce any

acquisition they may choose to make, & if they use not this power for evil purposes we must give them credit for more probity & right feeling than is generally ascribed to their Civilized brethren.

May 13th 1836. Two days ago I left the fort & am now encamped at Warrior's point, the old station of the American brig. Birds are not so plentiful at this place as last season, but I am doing pretty well in collecting plants.

Near my camp there are several large lodges of indians, mostly of the Comalitz tribe, in all probably 100 persons. As is usual they give me some trouble by coming around & lolling about my tent, & importuning me for the various little articles that they see. My Camp Keeper however, (a Klikatat) is a gallant fellow, has no great love for Comalitz indians, & immediately as he sees them becoming troublesome, he clears the coast sans ceremonie. There is among them a Child — a very pretty little girl — sick with intermittent fever, & to day the "Medicine man" has been exercising his functions upon the poor little patient & by consequence increasing its disease to a very considerable extent — pressing upon the little sufferer's stomach with his brawny hands until it shrieked with the pain, singing & muttering diablerie, blowing upon its head, whispering in its ears, & exorting the evil spirit to pass out by the door &c. These exhibitions would be laughable did they not often involve such serious consequences, & for myself I always feel a sort of awe blended with the strongest disapprobation of the useless & cruel proceeding whenever I witness them, as well as pity for the deluded & deluding which is calculated to excite any but visible emotions. In the present case I intend tomorrow to offer my assistance to the parents of this Child & administer some medicine to it, of which I have a small stock with me. — provided the "Medicine man" is dismissed immediately — but I shall make this a condition.

16th I received the promise of the indian father to abstain from "making medicine", & administered to his Child a brisk purgative followed by Sulphate of Quinine which immediately checked the disease, & yesterday the patient was perfectly restored. In consequence of my success in this case I had an application to administer medicine to two other Children similarly affected. My stock of Quinine being exhausted determined to substitute an extract of the bark of the Dogwood tree (Cornus Florida) & taking one of the parents into the wood with his blanket I soon stripped off a plentiful supply, returned, boiled it in his own kettle, & completed the preparation in his house with all the family staring at me to comprehend the process. This was the very thing I wished, & for

that Jupiter was the last & only Planet. I took down the Altitude
very thing & then as I a Pleiades which gave the Latitude
nearly when the Sun was the Equator. I saw the Comet
degrees & the Sun & Moon about 40 apart & saw more than
as I could see the Sun & Moon & Comet. I saw the Comet
Jupiter & Mars & Mercury & Venus & Saturn & Moon
Mercury & Venus & Saturn & Moon & Comet & Jupiter
Mercury & Venus & Saturn & Moon & Comet & Jupiter
Mercury & Venus & Saturn & Moon & Comet & Jupiter

4 June 1836

this event we started, & the woman walked to the boat carrying her new born infant on her back, embarked, laughed & talked as usual, & was in reality in every respect as well as though nothing had happened. We had to day a strong wind & used our sails constantly. In the afternoon we passed the high, bold basaltic point known by the voyageurs by the name of "Cape Horn". The wind here blew a perfect hurricane, the waves ran enormously high, & had it not been for the consummate skill of those who managed our boats we must have had no little difficulty. No indians on the route to day. A few visited us at our camp in the evening 9 miles below the Dalles.

20th We were engaged almost the whole of this day in making portages & I had in consequence some opportunity of making observations upon the country & its natural productions. We have now arrived above the reach of vegetation: no trees or even shrubs, nothing but huge jagged rocks of basalt, & interminable sand heaps. I found here a large & beautiful species of Marmot two of which I shot. We encamped in the evening at the village of the indian Chief Tiki. I had often heard of this man but I now saw him for the first time. His person is rather below the middle size, but his features are good, with a roman cast, & his Eye is deep black & unusually fine. He appears to be remarkably intelligent & (for a Century before the generality of these people in Civilization). I had a good deal of conversation with him this evening & was particularly pleased with his observations.

July 3d This morning we arrived at the Open prairies covered with wormwood bushes

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Country, as having been taken (I think in the Spokan Country) by a white man from her indian husband, & Mr. Cox gives a dashing acct. of the whole matter, with a long speech from the forlorn, deserted spouse, the whole of which he has probably drawn from his imagination. But that the woman was taken by the white man is true, & that some presents were given to the former husband in lieu of her is true, but as to any speechifying, sobs or sorrowing, it's all Judge. She is a most noble specimen of bone & muscle, & so masculine in appearance that were she to cast the petticoat & don the breeches the cheat would never be discovered, & but few of the lords of the Creation would be willing to face the amazon. She is a most useful woman to Mr Ogden: as he is becoming rather infirm she can protect him most admirably. If he wishes to cross a stream in travelling without horses or boats, she plunges in without hesitation, takes him upon her back & lands him safely & expeditiously upon the opposite bank. She can also kill & dress an Elk, run down & shoot a Buffalo, or spear a Salmon for his breakfast in the morning better than any man servant he could employ. Added to all this she has in several instances saved his life in skirmishes with Indians at the imminent risk of her own. So that he has good reason to be attached to her.

The appearance & strong odour of these forcibly reminds me of my journey across the mountains when we frequently saw nothing for weeks except this dry & barren looking shrub.

ACADEMY NAT. S PHILA. MS 4/04

4th The indians are now very numerous along the river engaged in Catching Salmon, Lampa Eels &c. They take thousands of the latter & they are seen hanging in great numbers in their lodges. Immediately as the indians see us approach they leave their shantie's & come out towards us, frequently wading to their middle in the water to get near the boats. Their constant cry to us is Pi-pi - Pi-pi. (Tobacco, tobacco) & they bring a great variety of matters to trade for this desirable article. Fish, living birds of various kinds, Young wolves, Foxes, Minks &c. A Collector of a menagerie would do well amongst these people.

9th At Fort Walla walla — Mr Lambrow & myself rode out about two miles over the prairie for the purpose of shooting Grous. We soon came upon a large pack of birds & I killed nine of them in about an hour. These birds are about the size of the domestic hen & afford a most attractive & beautiful mark for the Sportsman. They lie well, flush easily & quickly & fly with great vigour & straight away making as much whirring with their wings as the Common pheasant. It reminded me strongly of my old sporting days & I pursued it for a time with considerable zest. The flesh of this species (the Sharp-tailed Grous, Tetrao phasianellus) is white like that of the Pheasant & is excellent eating —

16th This afternoon a small Camp of Nez Percés, or Pierced nose indians arrived at the Fort. They come from the Grand ronde where they have been catching Salmon, digging Camash — One of them brought me a Badger, a very pretty animal, which I prepared. In an excursion on the opposite side of the Lower Walla walla river yesterday I saw a great number of rattle Snakes & killed 5 that would not get out of my way. They were all large, but one of them was enormous, being nearly as thick as a man's wrist, & having Eleven rattles. I saw, I should think, thirty that I ~~killed~~ did not kill. They were all remarkably bold & fearless & seemed quite willing to dispute the ground with me, shaking their rattles, coiling & darting at me with great fury. They are not by any means so plentiful on this side of the river — it is even rare to see one in the neighbourhood of the Fort.

25th At 10 o'Clock this morning I mounted my horse for a journey to the Blue Mountains. I am accompanied by a young man belonging to the Fort, a half breed who acts as guide, groom, interpreter &c. & I have a pack horse to carry my little nick-nackaries. We shaped our Course about N.E. over the Sandy prairie & towards evening arrived at Touchet river, 25 miles & encamped. There is very little water here

but the small quantity that we find is excellent & very cold. We were glad to reach it as we had not tasted water since leaving the fort, & the day was very warm. On our way we met two Walla walla indians driving down a large band of horses. They informed us that the Snakes have crossed the mountain & are commencing their annual thieving of horses & they are taking them away to have them secure. I shall have to look out closely to my own small caravan, or I shall be under the necessity of turning pedestrian. Tomorrow I expect to reach a Camp of Kioust's on the Utalla river with whom I shall perhaps remain several days & also get fresh horses if necessary.

26th At 8 o' clock I left my Camp & in 3 hours arrived at the Utalla river where I found the village of Kioust's engaged in making Kamas. Large quantities of this root are lying strewed about on mats & buffalo robes, some in a crude state & a vast quantity pounded to be made into Cakes for winter store. There are of the indians about 12 or 15 lodges. One, a very large one, about 60 feet long by 15 broad made of buffalo skins, mats & branches of trees is occupied by the Chief & his immediate family. This man I saw when I arrived at Walla walla & I have accepted an invitation to make my home in his lodge while I remain here. The house is really a very comfortable one: the rays of the sun are completely excluded & the ground is covered with buffalo robes. It is far better than encamping in the bushes. There are in the Chief's lodge about 20 women all busy as usual: some pounding Kamas, others making leather dresses, moccasins &c. Several of the young of these are very good looking, I might almost say, handsome. Their heads are generally round, not flattened in the horrible & unnatural manner of the Chinooks, their faces are inclining to oval, & their eyes have a peculiarly lively & languishing appearance. They appear as though naturally inclined to lasciviousness, but if this feeling exists it is effectually checked by their self enacted laws which are very severe in these cases & in every instance rigidly enforced. The dresses of the women, (& unlike the Chinooks they all have dresses,) are of deer or antilope skins more or less ornamented with beads & hyguas. It consists of one piece, but the part covering the bust projects over the lower portion of the garment, & its edges are cut into strings to which a quantity of beads are generally attached.

In the evening all the indians belonging to the village assembled in our lodge & with the Chief for minister performed divine service or family worship. This I learn is an invariable practice among all these people twice every 24 hours, at sunrise in the morning & after supper in the evening. When all the people had gathered, our large lodge was filled. On entering, every person squatted in their usual manner & the Clerk (a sort of sub Chief) gave notice that the Deity would now be addressed. Immediately the whole

audience rose to their knees, & the Chief supplicated for about 10 minutes in a very solemn but low tone of voice; at the conclusion of this an amen was pronounced by the whole company in a loud, swelling sort of groan. Three hymns were then sung, several of the individuals present leading in rotation, & at the conclusion of each, and then amen. The Chief then pronounced a short exortation occupying about 15 minutes which was repeated by the Clerk at his elbow in a voice loud enough to be heard by the whole assembly. At the conclusion of this each individual rose & walked to one of the doors of the house, where, making a low inclination of his body & pronouncing a good night in an audible voice to the Chief, he departed to his home. I shall hear this ceremony every night & morning while I remain, & so far from being irksome, it is agreeable to me. It is pleasant to see these poor degraded Creatures performing a religious service, for, to say nothing of the ultimate good that may be expected to result from it, it will in a measure humanize them & render them fitter subjects for the religious instruction which it is desirable they may some day receive. Their voices too in singing are remarkably sweet & musical & they accord most admirably.

27th. This morning my friend the Chief furnished me with fresh horses, & I & my attendant with two Indian guides started for a trip to the mountain. As we passed up one of the gorges we saw great numbers of the Sharp-tailed Grouse (sinking among the willows, & occasionally alighting,-when disturbed,- in the Cottonwood trees. As we ascended, the scenery became more & more wild, & the ground rough & difficult of passage: steep, & sometimes almost perpendicular hills, covered mostly with loose & jagged masses of lava, dense bushes of thorn often rising as high as our horses' heads & below, Concealed burrows of the Badger & Fox; but I had under me one of the best horses that ever I rode: he seemed perfectly acquainted with the country: I had but to give him his head & not attempt to direct him, & he carried me triumphantly through every difficulty. In many places however I would have dismounted from very apprehension, but seeing my guides maintain their seats with perfect composure I followed their example, & I was glad I did so. Immediately as we reached the upper land & the pine trees, we saw large flocks of the Dusky Grouse (Tetrao obscurus) a number of which we killed. Other birds were very scarce. I am at least two months too late & I cannot too much regret the circumstance. A great deal might be done here by an ornithological Collector at the proper season. We started a

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Black tailed Deer on the mountains but were not prepared to kill it, also two Foxes, one of them, the beautiful Kitfoot. Chief Steemed a rarity Called the Silver. We returned to our lodge in the Evening loaded with Goods, but with very few Specimens to increase my collection.

29th. This morning after breakfast the indians struck their lodges, & Commenced making all their numerous movables into bales for packing on their horses. I admired the facility & dispatch with which this was done. The women alone worked at it, the men lolling around, smoking & talking but now and once directing their fair partners in their task. The whole camp travels with me to Walla walla. We rode to the Moro river where we encamped for the night.

30th. Before daylight this morning our indians were up & packing their horses but at about Sunrise we started for Walla walla. The Chief, my attendant myself rode ahead at a gallop, & Continued at this pace, scarcely stopping a minute except to pick up an occasional plant by the way, until we arrived at our destination. I rode a fresh indian horse, a creature of a most indomitable Spirit & that I sometimes had some difficulty to keep within the bounds of discretion & soberness. Arrived at the fort while Mr. Pambrun was at breakfast, but after a gallop of 25 miles I felt quite ready to join him. In the afternoon the whole camp arrived.

Aug. 10th. I am this day 27 years of age. This is in all probability the last birth day I shall pass in this Country. When my next arrives I hope to be in my own happy & blessed land surrounded by our beloved family & friends. It is now 2 years & 5 months since I left home & nearly two years since I arrived at the Columbia. We are now expecting the arrival of Mr. McLeod every day as he has deferred his return so much longer than he had intended. Mr. Pambrun supposes that he may be waiting to accompany the missionaries to Vancouver who are expected to arrive this year at the rendezvous. These are a Mr. Clark & Doctr. Whitman, associates of the Revd Mr. Parker, the latter of whom came with him to the mountains last year & returned to the board to report progress & procure a fresh supply. These gentlemen may possibly bring me a letter from home, either one direct from our family, (of which however I have but faint hopes) or one that I have reason to believe has been a year & a half or two years in the mountains. Even of

Aug. 11th 1836 this I do not feel any certainty, & although there is no one thing on earth that I more desire than intelligence from home, yet I have made up my mind to endure the disappointment with patience in case my wishes are not gratified, which, under the circumstances, I am sorry to say I have great fears of.

ACADEMY NAT. SCI. PHILA. MS. 404

12th This morning I crossed the river with an indian to hunt for the large Grous (T. urophasianus) After walking about 3 miles I found a small pack of 6 birds from which I killed one. I soon after found several more & shot in all 4 birds besides several which escaped wounded. This was in consequence of my shot being too small. It is a remarkably strong bird & is able to carry away a large quantity of small or even large, shot. & so poorly was I provided that unless the bird flushed very close to me I was not able to kill it. As an instance of their uncommon tenacity of life Mr Farnham says that he has frequently shot them with a rifle while sitting & that they have not unfrequently risen & flown an hundred or more yards after the ball had passed entirely through the body. It is a particularly laborious sort of shooting as there are no hunting dogs here & at the first rise the game often flies for a mile or more before it rests. So that it is generally impossible to mark it down with any accuracy & the walking on the plains covered with wormwood is difficult & tiresome. With a brace of good pointers the difficulty would be very much lessened & the sport would be excellent, but it would always be necessary to have a game carrier in consequence of the great weight of the birds. Three of them that I procured to day are moulting & moulting, but the fourth is an adult male, the plumage very nearly perfect, a most beautiful fellow & a far better specimen that I expected to get at this season. He measures 32 inches in length & weighs 6 lbs.× There is a very small species of Hare inhabits the prairies in this neighbourhood which I have sometimes seen in my excursions, but it is not plentiful & very shy, so that I have not been able to get it. The large Hare (Lepus variabilis?) is very abundant.

13th Yesterday one of Capt. Wyeth's former men arrived here from the Snake Country. His object in coming is to trade horses to pursue the business of trapping in the mountains. He brings no late news from the upper country except that he saw Mr. Wyeth on the Snake river near Fort Hall late in June. He states that within a year past the party

×This bird is very poor; when fat they often exceed 8 lbs.

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which he has lately been attached has had two battles with the Black-feet in which several of the indians & a number of horses were killed, & three white men seriously, but not mortally, wounded. He brings no intelligence from the rendezvous, nor has he seen Mr. Mc Leod.

This morning an indian brought me a living Badger which I killed & skinned. I value the present specimen more than those I have heretofore made, on acct. of the skull being perfect. Those killed by the indians invariably have the crania broken to fragments. They are generally killed with the handles of their riding whips. The animal is caught at a distance from his burrow, & as he does not run rapidly is easily overtaken & knocked on the head.

16th I crossed the Columbia this morning with an indian & spent most of the day shooting the large Grouse. I saw 5 or 6 packs, in all perhaps 30 or 40 birds & bagged eleven. This, although it does not sound large in the way of slaughtering game, is yet, every thing considered, doing tolerably well. The birds almost invariably fly so far at the first rise that it is impossible to mark them, & alighting on the broad & monotonous plain, one might search the whole day, (without a dog,) & not fall upon them. In several instances I killed two at the first flushing, & once or twice a single bird that happened to be separated from his companions. My poor indian had no doubt thought that I had enough game as he staggered under his load, & before we reached home was almost worn out. The bird is very little inferior in size to the domestic Turkey, & 10 or 12 form as much load as a man wishes to carry in this warm weather.*

20th I collected a party of 12 indians this morning & crossed the river to hunt the Small Hares. The indians had no other weapons but their small bows & arrows but with these they exhibited great dexterity. Immediately as we landed several of the animals were seen & almost as soon as seen, were killed. We recrossed the river about noon with 9 small & one large Hare most of them captured by the indians. During the remainder of the day & evening I was busied in preparing my specimens.

29th An indian has just arrived this morning from the river Boisée, & brings

* These dry & uninteresting details will probably only weary my beloved sisters, & perhaps will be considered very stupid & tiresome by all who happen to read them; my only excuse is that at the time they were written I had no occupation more interesting than shooting birds & then scribbling about them.

intelligence of the arrival of Mr. McLeod at that fort several days since. He is accompanied by two missionary gentlemen, Mr. Spalding & Doct. Whitman with their wives. The indian messenger travelled with the party to Powder river where he left them on Saturday & came on rapidly to bring the news. They probably arrived at the Grand ronde yesterday, to day encamped on the summit of the Blue Mountains & tomorrow will no doubt reach the Utalla river, so that we may expect them on Wednesday & Thursday at the latest. They cannot of course travel rapidly as their horses must necessarily be very much jaded, & moreover we hear that they are driving horned cattle which must be a considerable detention to them. Mr. Pambrun & myself have both been anxiously expecting this party for a considerable time & our minds are now very much relieved by hearing of them. It will of course be delightful to me to see my countrymen, particularly enlightened people such as these, to say nothing of the letter which I hope they will bring me, but the pleasure I anticipate is not a little dampened by the knowledge of the many & almost insurmountable difficulties which will beset these devoted people in the discharge of the arduous duties devolving upon those who settle among indians for the purpose of civilizing & christianizing them. I really feel the most sincere pity for them as I know they have difficulties & trial in store for them, the extent of which they can have no conception of. Still the cause in which they have embarked is one of the noblest & most self sacrificing in which Christian men can be engaged, & it is most devoutly to be desired that they may be successful in the great work of evangelization. The poor females must have suffered severely in the long & troublesome passage across the mountains.

The same indian also brings intelligence of the death of a man named Antoine Goday at Fort Hall on Snake river. This man I knew in the mountains & travelled some distance with him in Capt. Wyeth's Company to which he was for some time attached. He is a half breed & has for years been considered the best hunter & trapper in the mountains, as well as one of the strongest, most vigorous & most active men. He was a most valuable man to Wyeth & his interests will suffer much by his loss. The circumstances of his death were these. A party of Black foot indians arrived on Snake river opposite the fort of which Capt. Thing at that time had charge & hallooed to the men to send a canoe across for them as they had beaver which they wished to trade, & had no means of crossing the river. After some demurring a canoe was accordingly despatched

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to them & poor Goday ferried it over. Immediately as the bow of the canoe touched the shore a volley was fired by the whole party of Black Feet & Goday was instantly killed.* They then took his Scalp & decamped before any measures could be taken by those in the fort against them. I was not before aware that any trade had been carried on between Fort Hall & the Black feet indians, but I understand that they have for a considerable time been in the habit of receiving bears from them. They are always dangerous people to have with; treachery with them is a virtue, & their deadly hostility to all white people is so well known that I cannot but feel astonished that the fort people should have been so indiscreet as to put themselves in their power. They would doubtless have killed any man that had been sent to them, but they were probably particularly pleased in being able to wreak their vengeance upon poor Goday as he has long been one of their most successful enemies, has killed many of them & has been well known to the whole tribe. I consider Fort Hall in a most dangerous situation. With such treacherous & bloody neighbours it can never be safe & they will only be waiting a favorable opportunity to cut off the fort & the whole of its inmates which at some unforeseen & unguarded moment they will most assuredly accomplish.

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* Since the arrival of Mr. McLeod & party we have heard a somewhat different version of this story. The band of Black Feet was headed by a renegado white man named Bird. This Bird sent to Capt. Thing requesting a canoe to cross him. The canoe was sent to him & Goday went alone. He shook hands with Bird & all the indians, & smoked the pipe of peace with them. While Goday was smoking in his turn Bird gave a sign to the indians & a volley was discharged into his back. While he was yet living Bird himself tore the scalp from the poor fellow's head, & deliberately cut Capt. Wyeth's initials, N. J. W. in large letters on his forehead. He then hallooed to the fort people, told them to bury the carcass if they wished, & immediately went off with his party. This Bird is a man who came 10 or 12 years ago to the Country, & was formerly in the service of the Hudson's Bay Co. The Company I believe, sent a party among the Black feet for the purpose of trading, & this man has remained with them ever since. He is said to be a man of good education, polite & gentlemanly in his manners, but a more treacherous & diabolical villain & there is no doubt that he has exerted great influence in exciting the bad passions of the indians among whom he dwells. A considerable party of white men is now on his trail, & each of them has sworn he will not return without his scalp so that the renegado's reign will probably be short.

We also hear that Wyeth man who was lately here has been assaulted in the Grand ronde by a band of Walla walla indians, & he & his two companions, after being severely beaten had all their horses, traps, ammunition & clothing taken from them. The indians were however finally induced to return them each a horse & gun in order that they might proceed to the interior to get fresh supplies. This was a matter of policy on the part of the indians, as if the white men had been compelled to travel on foot they would have come immediately here to procure fresh horses &c. & thus exposed the plunderers. Mr. Cambrun is acquainted with the ringleader of this band of marauders & intends to take the first opportunity of punishing him with a severity commensurate with his fault, as well as to compel him to make ample restitution for the stolen property & broken heads of the unoffending trappers.

Sept. 1st. This morning early the expected party arrived. It consists only of Doct. Whitman & his wife & a young gentleman named Gray who is to be the schoolmaster of the mission. Immediately as they entered the house they presented me — oh! how shall I describe the joy of that moment! — with a large bundle of letters from home, dear home, delightful home, & written this year too, the very latest possible opportunity. It is almost needless to say that my greetings to the strangers were short. I folded the dear, blessed packquet to my bosom, & flew to my little bastion, tore open the envelope, & was in a moment absorbed in the contents. The intelligence is, as might have been expected, of a mixed nature. The death of several of my friends is recorded, but none of my immediate family had paid the last debt excepting my dear old grandmother. Peace be to her ashes! She has closed a long & spotless life, & her sainted spirit is resting in the bosom of her father & her god! She had lived out the time usually allotted to humanity, & her departure is an event for which I had been fully prepared. We should not grieve that the righteous are taken, they have but exchanged a scene of care & sorrow for a never ending eternity of happiness & joy. The packquet contained about a dozen letters, the most of them from our dear family, & also remembrances from my friends Doct. Morton, W. Leedom, J. C. Allen, & W. P. Gibbons. My beloved sister M — the excellent girl — has furnished me with a complete history of the chief events which have transpired in our little circle ever since I left it. Thanks, dear sister, thanks — My poor weak mind is

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Still in such a whirl, & my head aches so intensely from the strong emotions excited by the reception of these letters that I can scarcely compose myself for a moment. My thoughts are now all of home & I shall certainly not rest until I reach it, be the consequences what they may — but I must dismiss the subject for the present.

Attached to this mission is another gentleman, the Revd Mr Spalding & his lady who were left back a few days ago. They are expected to arrive in the course of a day or two. Mr McLeod intends to start down the river on Saturday & I shall accompany him. The missionaries will follow in about a week.

3rd. Mr McLeod & myself prepared for our trip down the river this morning. Our boat was laden & our crew embarked, when just as we were about shoving off an indian arrived & informed us of the near approach of Mr & Mrs Spalding. We of course returned to the house & in a few minutes the guests presented themselves. We allowed ourselves a brief time for the common-place greetings & welcomings; when these were over we put off, waved our hats to them & were soon gliding rapidly down the river. I must here pause to say a few words about our interesting guests Dr & Mrs Whitman. Surely no couple could be more admirably adapted than they appear to be for the most arduous & trying duty to which they have devoted themselves. Their minds appear to be made up to endure patiently all the trials that will undoubtedly await them. They are aware that they will be many & various, & they do not shrink from the trial, but receiving it, as they say emphatically, to be their duty to engage in this work. Mrs Whitman has borne the journey astonishingly. She is singularly robust & healthy looking. Her person is above the middle height, commanding & noble, & she has the soul of a giantess. I had a long, & to me a most interesting conversation with her last Evening in private. The poor girl described the heart-rending scene of her parting with a large & interesting family & circle of friends, knowing too that the farewell was to be eternal. Oh! how inexpressibly trying that parting must have been. I am deeply interested in this lady. I never met with one who at first sight so completely enlisted my feelings, & if perfect strangers can so love her, what must she have been to her family, father, mother & eight brothers & sisters.

Our passage down to day was rapid. The current was strong

Form rate about 6 miles when aided by the oars. We ran several rapids, indeed all that we have encountered to day & in the evening encamped about 5 miles below the mouth of the Utaila river. — This running of rapids appears rather a dangerous business to those unaccustomed to it, & it is in reality sufficiently hazardous except when performed by old & skillful hands. Every thing depends upon the men who manage the bow & stern of the boat. Immediately as she enters the rapid the two guides lay aside their oars, taking in their stead paddles such as are used in the management of a Canoe. The middle men then ply their oars, the guides brace themselves against the gunwale of the boat, placing their paddles edgewise down her sides & away she goes over the curling, foaming & hissing waves like a race horse. We have not met to day any very dangerous rapids, but as we descend the river they will become more & more so until we arrive at the Cascades. Our boutes* are however very good men & Mr. McLeod is himself a first rate waterman so that there is but little danger to apprehend accidents. We passed to day several large lodges of indians from whom we wished to have purchased fish, but they had none, or were not willing to spare any, so that we were compelled to purchase a dog for supper. I have said we, but I beg leave to correct this, as I was myself most averse to the proceeding, not however from any particular dislike to the quality of the food, (I have eaten it repeatedly & relished it,) but I am always unwilling, unless when suffering absolute want, to take the life of so noble & faithful an animal. Our hungry companions however appeared to have no such scruples. The indian called his dog, & he came to him wagging his tail! He sold his companion for 10 balls & powder!! One of our men approached the poor animal with an axe; I turned away my head to avoid the sight — I heard the dull sodden sound of the blow: — the kind friend & faithful companion lay quivering in the agonies of death at its master's feet! — Has an indian any natural feeling? I unhesitatingly answer, none. He would sell his mother, his wife, or his sister, — Aye his own Soul for balls & powder.

We are enjoying a most magnificent sight at our camp this Evening On the opposite side of the river the indians have fired the prairie, & the whole country for miles around is most brilliantly illuminated. Here am I

*A Canadian terms for a guide to a Canoe or boat: Bowsman: Steersman:

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Letting Cosp legged upon the ground & dribbling by the light of the vast conflagration with as much ease as though I had a ton of oil burning by my side, but my eyes are every moment involuntarily wandering from the paper before me to contemplate & admire the grandeur of the distant scene. The very heavens themselves appear as though ignited, & the fragments of ashes & blazing grass blades ascending & careering about through the glowing firmament appear like brilliant & glorious birds let loose to roam & revel amid this splendid scene. It is past midnight, every one in the camp is asleep & I am this moment visited by about 6 or 8 Indian Rocher=mal Fishermen who are peering over my shoulders & soliciting a smoke, so that I shall have to stop & fill my Calumet.

17th We were under weigh before day light this morning, but the wind soon rising we were not enabled to make much progress. In the afternoon the gale increased so much, (the wind dead ahead) that notwithstanding the force of the current we made no headway & were compelled to lie by at 2 o'clock. The Indians have brought us to day an abundance of Salmon so that we have not been required to kill any more dogs.

18th At about daylight this morning the wind sprung up as yesterday & continue steadily & violently the whole day. If we had only this wind in our favor we should be able to fly down the river under our Squaresail but being exactly ahead it impedes our progress very much, besides raising a high & dangerous swell that makes our boat dance over the waves like a cork. A Canoe would not live ten minutes in such a sea. We ran to day several powerful rapids & had an opportunity of proving the skill & dexterity of our guides, but in spite of all they could exercise, we shipped considerable quantities of water. Indians are numerous along the river. They are still engaged in fishing. As we pass along we frequently see them posted upon the rocks overhanging the waters intently surveying the boiling & foaming flood below for the passing Salmon. In most instances an indian is seen entirely alone in these situations, often standing for an hour perfectly still, his eyes riveted upon the torrent & his long fish spear poised above his head. The appearance of a solitary Savage thus perched like an eagle upon a cliff is sometimes, when taken in connexion with the wild & rugged river scenery, very picturesque. The spear is a pole about 12 feet long at the end of which a long fork is made fast & between the tines is fixed a barbed iron point. They also in some situations use a hand scoop net & stand upon scaffolds ingeniously constructed over the raging torrents.

their winter Store of dried fish is stowed away in little huts of mats & branches closely interlaced, & also in Caches under ground. It is often amusing the see the hungry ravens tearing & tugging at the strong mats of the houses in a vain attempt to reach the savory food within.

In the afternoon we passed John Day's river & encamped about sunset at the "Shoots." Here is a very large village of Indians, (the same that I noticed in my journal two years ago,) & we are this evening surrounded by some scores of them. Our camp is just above the rapid waters of the Shoots & the roaring of the Cataract makes it necessary for us to raise our voices to a high pitch in order to maintain Conversation. Tomorrow we make a portage here & carry our boat about ½ a mile across the land to the foot of the falls.

6th. We made the portage of the Shoots immediately after breakfast & in the afternoon arrived at one of the upper Falls. Here Mr. McLeod & myself debarked & the men ran the falls. We walked on ahead to the most dangerous part & stood upon the rocks about a hundred feet above to observe them. It really seemed exceedingly dangerous to see the boat darting ahead like lightning through the foaming & roaring waters, sometimes raised high above the enormous swells & dashed down again as though she were seeking the bottom with her bows, & at others whirled around & nearly sucked under by the whirlpools constantly forming around her. But she stemmed every thing gallantly under the direction of our experienced guides, & we soon embarked again & proceeded to the lower falls. Here it is perfectly impracticable in the present State of the waters to pass them so that the boat & goods had to be carried across the whole portage. This occupied the remainder of the day & we encamped at a short distance from the lower villages in the evening. The Indians told us with sorrowful faces of the recent death of their principal Chief, Tilki. Well, exclaimed I, the white man has lost a friend, & long will it be before we see his like again! The poor fellow was unwell when I last saw him with a complaint of his breast which at that time suspected to be pulmonary. I gave him a few simple medicines & told him I should soon see him again. Well do I remember the despondency which oppressed him when he bade me farewell & begged me to return soon & give him more medicine. About 2 weeks since he burst a blood vessel & died in a short time. He was the only Indian on the whole Columbia River with whom I was really pleased.

We see large numbers of Seals as we pass along. To day they are

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particularly numerous, rising all around our boat & trembling about like huge hogs in our wake. We occasionally shoot one, but make no use of them: they are only valuable from the large quantity of oil they contain.

We observe on the breasts & bellies of many of the Indians here a number of large red marks mostly of an oval form, sometimes 20 or 30 grouped together. These are wounds made by their own hands to display to their people the unwavering & stoical resolution with which they can endure pain. A large fold of the skin is taken up with the fingers & sliced off with a knife: the surrounding fibre then retreats & a large & ghastly looking wound remains. Many that I observed to day are yet scarcely cicatrized. There is here a Chief who obtained the dignity which he now enjoys solely by his numerous & hardy feats of this kind. He was originally a common man & allowed to possess but one wife — he has now six, & any of the tribe would think themselves honored by his alliance. He is a most gigantic fellow, about 6 Ft. 4 inches in height remarkably stout & powerful. The whole front of his person is covered with the red marks of which I have spoken, & he displays with considerable pride the two scars of a bullet which entered the left breast & passed out below the shoulder blade. This wound he also made with his own hand by placing the muzzle of his gun against his breast & grasping the trigger with his toe. & by this last & most daring act he was raised to the Chief Command of all the Indians on the North side of the river. Now that poor Telki is no more he will probably be Chosen Chief of all the Country from the Cascades to Walla walla. I asked him if he felt no fear of death from the wound in his Chest at the time it was inflicted. He said no, that his head was strong & that a bullet could not kill him. He told me that he vomited large quantities of blood for the space of two days after he shot himself but that he was entirely cured in a week afterwards. He is named by the Indians, Skookoom*, (the strong.)

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* Mr. McLeod who has just arrived, (Nov. 15th) from above, tells me that poor Skookoom is dead. A bullet, (or rather two of them) killed him at last in spite of his supposed invulnerability. He was shot by one of his people in a fit of jealousy. Skookoom had assisted Mr. McL. with his boats across the portage, & being a Chief he of course received more for the service than a common man. This wretch, who was an inferior, chose to be offended by it, & vented his rage by murdering the poor man. He fired a ball from his own gun into his breast which brought him to the ground, & then dispatched him with a second which he seized from another. So poor Skookoom has passed away, & such is the frail tenure upon which an Indian Chief holds his authority & his life. The murderer will no doubt soon die by the

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also saw a poor old man here apparently about 80 years of age who had given himself three enormous longitudinal gashes in his leg to evince his grief for the loss of Tilki. From the sluggishness of the circulation in the body of the poor old creature, combined with a morbid habit, these wounds are yet open & discharge large quantities of an unhealthy serous matter. I dressed his limb & gave him a strict charge to have it kept clean, but knowing the universal carelessness of indians in this respect, I fear my directions will not be attended to. & the consequence will probably be that the old man will die miserably. I remonstrated with him upon the folly of such infliction, & took this opportunity of delivering a short lecture upon the same subject to the others assembled in his lodge.

4th We got under weigh this morning even before the usual time. It was perfect calm, but a fine fair breeze soon rising, we set our large squaresail & went careering along before it most gaily. At about 11 o'clock we arrived at the Cascades & made the long portage. We effected it after some difficulty, about Sunset, passed the two lower rapids, & the wind continuing fine, kept on until 9 o'clock in the evening when we encamped in an ash grove, 60 miles above Prairie de Thé.

The next day reached Van Couver, where we found two vessels which had just arrived from England.

24th Embarked in a canoe with indians for Fort George where I arrived on the evening of the 26th. One of the old women (of which there are several in our canoe) is afflicted with a number of old, indolent ulcers in her back, & one of the men who is with us, happening to be a "Medicine" he has been this morning pow-wowing over her. I have had a long & rather warm conversation with all the indians, (excepting the impostor himself) to endeavour to convince them of the folly & cruelty of this ceremony, but they all appear so firmly persuaded of the efficacy of the Doctor's ministrations that I have not been able to make the smallest impression. The delusion appears the more strange, inasmuch as there is not one amongst them who can cite a single case in which the vaunted skill of their medicine-man

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hand of some friend or relation of the deceased; he in his turn will be killed by another, & as usual, the blood business will go on almost ad infinitum, & may soon tend to produce an open war between the rival parties.

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has been of any avail. They only assist in the general, that he is very good, that he knows all ~~diseases~~ maladies, that he is in fact a sort of Conjurer who has only to Command the departure of disease, & the patient is Cured. The medicine men are I believe, in every instance, gross impostors, their object being merely to practice upon the credulity & superstition of the people to acquire property.

At Fort George I was very kindly received by the Superintendent of that Establishment, Mr. James Birnie & promised every assistance in forwarding my views.

21st. This morning I walked with Mr. B. along the beach & found a number of fossil Shells of several species, Pecten, Nautilus, Terebratula &c imbedded in the stones. These shells are evidently very ancient; none of the species are at present found there in a recent state. Birds appear to be rather scarce in this neighbourhood; there are none except a few Pelicans, Shags, Gulls &c

30th. I visited to day some Cemeteries in the neighbourhood of the Fort & extracted therefrom the Skulls of four Indians. Some of the bodies were simply deposited in Canoes raised 5 or 6 feet from the ground, either in the forks of trees or supported on stakes driven into the earth. In these instances it was not difficult to procure the Skulls without disarranging the fabric, but more frequently they were nailed in boxes or covered by a small Canoe which was turned bottom upwards & placed in a larger one, & the whole covered by strips of bark carefully arranged over them. It was then necessary to use the utmost caution in removing the coverings, & also to be careful to leave every thing in the same state in which it was found. I thought several times to day, — as I have often done in similar situations before, — Now suppose an Indian was to step in here & see me groping among the bones of his Fathers, & laying unhallowed hands upon the mouldering remains of his people, what should I say? — I know well what the Indian would do — He would instantly shoot me unless I took the most practical measures to prevent it but could I have time allowed me to temporize a little I could easily prevent all hostility & preaching by offering a blanket, a Shirt, or a Capot to ensure his silence. Any thing, no matter what, can be bought of these people if you can gain sufficient time to allow the first ebullition of their rage to subside, but the difficulty in most cases is, that while in the first paroxysm of passion they put a bullet through your head

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& then good bye to temporizing. Luckily for my pursuits in this way
there are at present but very few indians here, & I do not therefore incur
much risk: were it otherwise there would be no little danger in these aggressions.
The corpses of the several different tribes which are buried here are,
known by the difference in the structure of their canoes, & the sarcophagi
of the Chiefs from those of the common people, by the great care which
is manifested in the arrangement of the tomb. Among the skulls I procured
to day is one of a Killemook Chief, (a most gigantic fellow he must have
been from the enormous size of his head,) one of a Clatsop, & one of a
Chinook.

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6th. 14th. I walked to day around the beach to the foot of Young's bay, a distance
of about 10 miles, but did not see any thing to compensate me for the
trouble. It is here that Lewis & Clark wintered & a part of the building
they occupied is still standing. One of Mr. Birnie's Children found, a few
days since, a Silver medal which had been brought to the country by Lewis
& Clark & had probably been presented to some Chief who lost it. On
one side is a head with the name "Th. Jefferson, president of the U. States,
1801." On the other two hands interlocked, surmounted by a pipe &
tomahawk, & above, the words, "Peace & Friendship".

8th. This afternoon I embarked in a canoe with the Chief Chinamus & went
to his house at Chinook where we arrived at about 9 o'clock in the evening.
The Chief welcomed me to his house in a style that could do no discredit
to a more civilized person. He seated me at the head of the house,
(the place of honor & near the idol, of which more anon;) his two wives
were ordered to make a bed for me which they did by piling up about
a dozen of their soft mats, & placing my blankets upon them, & a
better bed I should never wish for. I was regaled before I turned in
with Sturgeon, Salmon, Wapatoes, Cranberries & every thing else that
the house afforded & was requested to ask for every thing I wanted
& it should be furnished me. Whatever may be said derogatory to these
people, it can be with truth that inhospitality is not among the number of
their bad qualities. I never went into the house of an indian in my
life in any part of the country without being most cordially received
& welcomed. Tomorrow I intend visiting the Cape & Chinamus has
offered them of his best men to accompany me. The house is of the
usual size, & is built in the usual way of logs & has a roof of Cedar bark & lined inside with mats: the floor is raised

about a foot above the ground, boarded & matted, & in the middle of the building a large space is appropriated to the fires. The berths are arranged around the sides of the house & consist of boards raised 4 feet from the ground & supported upon logs planted upright into it. In this as in almost every house there is a large figure or idol rudely carved & painted upon a board occupying the upper end of the building. To this figure many of the indians pay their supernatural honors. Chinamus says that if he is sick or in any kind of danger he has only to place himself against this image & the difficulty of whatever kind, vanishes at once. This certainly savors of idolatry, although I do not know that they ever address the uncouth figure as they would a deity, - they worship, like all other indians, - a great & invisible Spirit.

Attached to this establishment are three other houses similarly constructed inhabited by about 30 indians & at least that number of dogs. These, though very useful animals in their place, are here a great nuisance. They are of no possible service to the indians except to eat their provisions & to fill their houses with fleas, & a stranger approaching the lodges is in constant danger of being throttled by a legion of fierce brutes who do not half so hospitable as their masters.

26th. I visited the Cape to day, but had very little success —

27th. I embarked in a canoe this morning with Chinamus, his two wives & a slave to procure shell fish. These are said to be found in great abundance in some of the bays about a days voyage from this. We passed through a number of the narrow sluices which connect the numerous bays in this part of the country & at about noon debarked left our canoe, took our blankets on our shoulders, & struck through the midst of a deep pine forest. The road was generally firm & good being frequented almost constantly by indians, but towards the farther end of it we encountered a good deal of mud & for the distance of a mile we walked through it nearly to our knees. We then embarked in another canoe which had been taken there for us & towards evening arrived at an indian house near the Sea Side where we spent the night. In our passage through some of the narrow channels to day we saw immense swarms of Salmon. They were leaping & curvetting about in every direction & not unfrequently dashing their noses against our canoe in their headlong course. We met here several canoes of indians who are fishing. Their mode of taking the Salmon is a very simple one. The whole of the tackle consists of a pole about 12 feet long with a

large iron barbed hook attached to the end. This machine they keep constantly trailing in the water & when the fish approaches the surface, by a quick & dexterous jerk they fasten the iron in his side & shake him off into the canoe. They say they take so many fish that it is necessary for them to land about 3 times a day to deposite them.

The house in which we sleep to night is not near so comfortable as the one we have left. It stinks intolerably of Salmon which are hanging by scores to the roof to dry in the smoke, & our bed being on the dead level we shall probably suffer some from fleas, not to mention another unmentionable insect which is apt to inhabit these dormitories in considerable profusion. There are here several young children, beautiful flat headed, broad faced little individuals. One of the little dears has taken something of a fancy to me, & is now hanging over me & staring at my book with its great goggle eyes. It is somewhat singular perhaps, but I am becoming so accustomed to this universal deformity that I now scarcely notice it. I have often been evilly disposed enough to wish, that if in the course of events, one of these little beings was to die & I obtain possession of it, I should like to plump the small carcass into a barrel of spirits & send it home for the observation of the curious.

16th Last night the wind rose to a gale & this morning is blowing most furiously making the usually calm waters of these bays so turbulent as to be dangerous for our light craft. Notwithstanding this disadvantage the indians were in favour of starting for the sea which we accordingly did at an early hour. Soon after we left, in crossing one of the bays about 3/4 ℔ of a mile in width, the water suddenly became so agitated as at first nearly to upset our canoe. A perfect hurricane was blowing right ahead, cold as ice, & the water was dashing over us & into our little bark in a manner to frighten even the experienced Chief who was acting as helmsman. In a few minutes we were sitting nearly to our waistbands in water although one of the women & myself were constantly bailing it out, employing for the purpose the only two hats belonging to the party, my own & that of the Chief. We arrived at the shore at length in safety although there was scarcely a dry thread on us, & built a tremendous fire on the beach. We then dried our cloths & blankets as well as we could, cooked some Ducks that we killed yesterday, & made a hearty breakfast. My stock of bread, sugar & tea is completely spoiled by the salt water, so, that until I return to Fort George I shall have to live

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Sunday, but I think this no Sabbath. I have done it before & can do it again. In the afternoon the wind lulled a little & we went in our canoe to a sand bar about ½ a mile out into the bay where the women stripped themselves & waded into the water to look for shells, & the Chief & myself trained the rifle & shot some ducks for our dinner. Towards evening we went to the main land again & encamped for the night. The women gathered for me about ½ a dozen species of shells, Clams, Cockles & Oysters, all edible, & the last very good, though small. The common Pintail Duck is here in vast numbers, so much so that the Chief killed 26 to day, by a single discharge of his musket. They are exceedingly fat & most excellent eating, indeed all the game of this Lower Country is far superior to that found in the neighborhood of Vancouver.

25th We embarked early this morning to return to Chinook. The wind was blowing a gale as yesterday, but by running along close to the shore of the stormy bay, we were sheltered, by adding greatly to our distance, to escape the difficulties against which we contended yesterday, & regained the skies with tolerably dry garments. This morning I observed some immense swarms of a bird which I have never before seen in this Country - a Species of a species with which I am not unacquainted. The great flocks of this bird reminded me forcibly of the flights of Red Wings which I have seen on the Delaware & Schuylkill. I do not wish to exaggerate, but in many instances they actually darkened the air & as our Canoe passed the sands on which they were resting, the whole body would rise en masse with a noise like the dying cadence of heavy artillery. At the time when the great body of these birds was visible, the wind was so high that I was not willing to risk a deviation from our course to procure any, but in the afternoon I killed several Snipe, that passed us. At about 10 o'clock we arrived at the Portage & struck into the woods, shouldering our baggage as before. Mr Dean arrived on a beautiful little Stream of fresh water where we took breakfast. In this stream (not exceeding 3 feet at the widest part) I was delighted to observe a great number of large Salmon. Beautiful Fellows of from 15 to 25 lbs. weight darting & playing about in the Chrystal water & often exposing ⅓ of their bodies in making their way through the shallows. I had before no conception of these noble fish ever being found in such insignificant streams, but the Indians say that they always come into the rivulets at this season, & return to the Sea on the approach of winter. Our Slave killed seven of these beautiful fish

While we made our hasty breakfast, his only weapon being a light Cedar paddle. We arrived at Chinook in the Evening, & as we sat around the fires in the lodge, I was amused by the vivid descriptions given to the attentive inhabitants by Chinamus & his wives of the perils of our passage across the stormy bay. They all spoke at once & described most minutely every circumstance that occurred, the auditors continually evincing their attention to the relation by a pithy heh, varied to a-heh when the interest was most absorbing. They often appealed to me for the truth of what they were saying, & as in duty bound I made an assenting bow, although at times I fancied they were running on the borders of a propensity not uncommon among those of Christian lands, & which is commonly known by the expression, "drawing a long bow."

21st. The wind yesterday was so high that I did not consider it safe to attempt the passage to Fort George. This morning it was rather more calm & we started in a large Canoe at Sunrise. When we arrived near the middle of Young's bay the wind again rose & the water was dashing over us in such sheets, that we were compelled to go in shore & wait until it subsided. We lay here about an hour & then put off again to tolerably smooth waters & reached Fort George at 11 o'clock.

On board Barque Columbia dropping down the Columbia river bound for Oahu.

Nov. 22nd. We have a lovely day & the wind being fair & free we got under weigh at 8 o'clock & at 10 anchored off Fort George. The Columbia is a fine Ship of upwards of 300 tons burthen, Commanded by my old friend Capt. Darby. We have a whole Ship load of passengers, & in the Cabin & steerage, so that it has been somewhat difficult to stow us all, but as a Seaman would say, we are very snug, & by a little mutual accomodation we shall be able to do very well.

23rd. This morning the wind continuing fine, at about 9 o'clock we weighed & stood on for the Cape. Came to anchor off it at 10 o'clock when the Capt. & myself went ashore to look at the Channel. To our disappointment we found that the Sea broke across it & it was therefore deemed unsafe to attempt to stand out. In the Evening the wind shifted to S.S.W. Some Mariners say that should it continue in this quarter we may have to remain here for a Fortnight or more. We hope however that their augeries may not prove true & that we may get out tomorrow. I for one long to see blue water again. I am fond of the Sea: it suits both my disposition & constitution, & when the reflection that now every step I advance will

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carry me near to my beloved home is in itself a most powerful inducement to urge one on. But much as I desire again to see my home, much as I long to embrace those to whom I am attached by the strongest of all ties, I have never the less felt something very like regret at leaving Vancouver & its kind & agreeable inmates. I took leave of Dr. McLoughlin with feelings akin to those with which I should bid adieu to an affectionate parent, & to his fervent "God bless you Sir, & may you have a happy meeting with your friends," I could only reply by a look of the sincerest gratitude. Words are inadequate to express my deep sense of the obligations which I feel under to this truly generous & excellent man, & I fear I can only repay them by the sincerity with which I shall always cherish the recollection of his kindness, & the ardent prayers I shall breathe for his prosperity & happiness.

24th The wind continues in the same quarter, & from an other view which we took of the bar to day we have still to conclude it is dangerous to attempt going out. The sea breaks across the Channel with a roar like thunder, & the enormous surf which is constantly dashing against the Cape is almost frightful. We should consider it so in reality were we by any accident to be involved in the tremendous vortex. Our Captain is an old & very prudent man, & he is determined, rather than run any risk, to lie here until the bar shall become smooth. I of course am but an indifferent judge of the matter, but I am perfectly sure that the swells & breakers are not higher or stronger than when we went out in the May Dacre, & therefore I, as an individual would feel willing to run the risk of the passage in order to escape the ennui which will be a certain concomitant of a long detention here. To make matters worse, this afternoon a cold rain has set in, & from present appearances there is no prospect of a speedy cessation of it.

28th The weather is now very fine & has been so for two days, the wind is fair for us but the bar is very rough, the sea constantly breaking over it. We have made one attempt to get out, but failed & were obliged to stand in again. It is becoming rather dull here; we go ashore generally several times a day but there are very few birds or any thing else that is interesting.

30th At daylight this morning, the wind being fair & the bar more smooth, we weighed & stood out. At about 9 o'clock we crossed the bar, & in a few minutes after were booming along on the open sea before a fine stout breeze. We are now out & so good bye to Cape Disappointment & Columbia river & now for Home, dear home again.

13th. Since we left the river, until yesterday we have had such unpleasant weather, & such a heavy rolling sea that I have not been able to write with any degree of comfort, & so have neglected my journal. For the space of ten days the weather was constantly squally with heavy S.E. gales, accompanied with rain, hail, & lightning. Every thing in the vessel was turned topsy turvy: it was not possible to take the least exercise on deck, & when there, it was always necessary for the landsman to be ready to cling to the first object that met his hand in order to prevent being thrown overboard. The sea at these times was running literally mountain high & not unfrequently dashing over our quarter, down the Companion way & into the cabin windows. The poor people forward suffered the most horrors, as for the space of a week they were constantly wet, clothing, bed, & all. Most of our passengers, & even some of them who never suffered so before, were sick; & in short every thing with us was so uncomfortable & disagreeable that we were all heartily tired of it. We have now changed our climate, being in a much more southern latitude, & the weather is warm & clear with a smooth sea. About a week ago as we were sitting in the cabin in the evening we were startled by the dreadful cry of "a man overboard!" We all rushed to the deck instantly & there we saw one of our poor fellows buffetting the heavy sea at the distance of at least a ¼ of a mile astern. The vessel had been going about 6 knots, but she was instantly put aback, the jolly boat was cut away & lowered in a moment, Capt. Darby himself & 4 men sprang into her & in a few minutes the poor tar was aboard the ship again. He was very sick in consequence of the large quantity of sea water that he had swallowed, & completely exhausted by his efforts to keep himself afloat, but the requisite care being taken to restore him, & a composing draught being administered, he soon became comfortable & the next morning went to his duty as usual. On Friday last while the ship was lying to in a squall, we were surrounded by great numbers of a small species of Petrel & getting out our hooks & lines, we took, in the course of the day, upwards of twenty of them, besides one of the brown Albatrosses of these seas. Our observed latitude yesterday was 30°.24'. N. Longitude 131°.37'. W.

14th. This afternoon the cry of "Sail ho" called us from the cabin & upon ascending to the deck we saw a fine ship of about 300 tons bearing right for us at the distance of a league on our weather quarter. We immediately bore up for her, hoisted our colours. & in a few minutes we saw the colors of Great Britain floating from her gaff. It has been truly remarked that a ship under full sail is one of the most beautiful objects in the world. This is the first time I have ever seen a ship at sea & I was delighted with it. The noble vessel came rushing towards us like a huge living thing,

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dashing the water in glittering foam from her bows, & bending & "curtseying" to us & though she would pay homage to her sister of the sea. Then as her stern was elevated the high swell would rise over her bow & completely shut out the forward part of her from our view. As she came along side of us, the sails of both vessels were put aback, & in an instant we were nearly stationary. "What ship's that"? sung out our commander - "The Sir George Cockburn of London" was answered in return. "Whither from"? "Cruizing for whales" was the reply. "Have you seen any whales" asked the Captain of the strange craft. "No." "We are thirty days from Oahu" said the Captain of the whale ship. A few questions & answers relative to our vessel closed the short conference, & each again proceeded on his way. Long before evening closed we lost sight of the whaler - our rate was about 8 knots, & that of the other ship could not have been much less -

16th We are now in the delightful tropics, & more lovely weather I never saw. Clear, warm & balmy, but not in the slightest degree debilitating & a fine trade wind, before which we are going 8, & 8½ knots. This morning we saw a number of the beautiful Tropic birds, (Phaetons) flying around the vessel. This is one of the loveliest birds in the world. With a plumage of the most unsullied white, a form which is grace & perfection itself, & its long red tail feathers streaming in the wind, it looks like a beautiful sylph sporting over the rude & desolate ocean.

22nd This afternoon at 4 o clock we made land, & ascertained it to be the island of Maui, distant about 25 miles. We should have seen it somewhat sooner, but, although the sky was generally clear, there was some haze, & a few fleecy clouds floating over the horizon that in a measure obscured it. This evening is a most delightful one, as indeed are all the evenings in this latitude - The moon is shining most brilliantly, the atmosphere is deliciously warm & we are sailing along over a sea as smooth as a lake with the island of Morokai about 10 miles on our weather beam. There are certain indescribable feelings that with me always accompany an approach to the tropics, & although the sensations are of no definite character, yet they are wholly & entirely pleasurable. To day, & indeed for several days past, I have been subject to sudden fits of strange & unaccountable exhilaration. I have felt as though I could envy the light birds that are skimming before us over the unruffled sea & would fain spread my pinions & fly away with them. I have observed the evidences of something approximating to this feeling in all the passengers, & indeed of some of the sea faring folks. The sensations are precisely the same in every respect as those I experienced before, when we made these islands in the May Dacre. On that evening I obtained no sleep - I could not induce myself to go below as I could not endure to lose a moment of the exquisite delight

this I felt while on deck. This night will no doubt be ditto. Tomorrow morning, or even perhaps, to night, we expect to make Oahu, after which we shall soon gain the harbour.

23rd When I rose this morning we were rapidly approaching the island of Oahu which was but about 5 mile from us. We very soon came as near as was considered safe, & sailed along the island close outside of a wide coral reef by which it is environed. We soon after came in sight of Diamond Hill & swept around the beautiful bay of Waititi when the lovely harbour of Honolulu burst upon our sight. This view forms altogether one of the most beautiful panoramas that I ever witnessed. The shore below the town from Waititi to a considerable distance above, is fringed with graceful Cocoanut trees, with here & there a beautiful & most sylvan looking grass Cottage reposing under their shade. As you approach the harbour, these Cottages become more numerous, until at last they appear thickly grouped together, with occasionally a pretty garden dividing them. The fort too, which fronts the ocean, with its clean, whitewashed walls & cannon frowning from its embrazures, adds very much to the effect of the scene, while behind, the noble hills & fertile vallies between them clothed with the richest verdure, soften down & mellow the whole, & render the prospect most indescribably beautiful. When we came opposite to the town, Adams, the pilot, boarded us & brought us close outside the harbour, where we anchored for want of wind. Capt. Darby, Capt. Royal, W. Corrie & myself went ashore in the pilot boat & paid our respects to our friends, a number of whom were assembled on the wharf to welcome us—

1837

PHCA MS 401

Jan. 1st. Since we arrived, we have been so constantly engaged in visiting, receiving visits, & in performing the usual penance attaching to strangers visiting this island, that I have not had an opportunity of continuing my notes. I am now so much in arrears that I scarcely know where to begin, & many little circumstances, in themselves perhaps trifling enough, but which at the time of their occurrence interested me, must of necessity have escaped my recollection. I will however endeavour to ramble on in my usual desultory & unconnected manner, but be it understood that these rough & most imperfect memoranda are intended simply & solely to gratify a very few dear relations to whom, for the sake of the author, they will be interesting. It would perhaps be almost a work of supererogation to speak of the Civil polity, governmental regulations, manners, habits &c, of the natives of the S. Islands. Foreigners have so long resided here, & there has already been so much written on this subject at home, that I can only refer my beloved friends to the published works of Cook, Ellis & Stewart as to numerous, fugitive remarks that have from time to time appeared in the periodicals of the day. Stewart, in the two works which he has given to the world, (vide "Journal of a residence at the S. Islands", & "A visit to the South Seas in the U. S. Ship Vincennes",) has evidently & palpably, in

many instances, been guilty of misrepresentation. He has evidently, in many instances, distorted truth, (to use the mildest possible term,) & has too frequently fallen into an error, common — I might almost say, universal — amongst journalists of his class, that of lending a false & unnatural coloring to all, even the most trifling objects & circumstances that came under his notice. I do not make this observation in a malevolent or fault-finding spirit — I do not wish improperly to prejudice any against a writer who evidently possesses talents for description of no common order, but a regard for sacred truth compels me to affirm, that in many instances, he has manifestly, & I must believe, wilfully, been guilty of the grossest misrepresentation. For the truth of this assertion I appeal to any person who has ever visited the island of Oahu. Will not, has not, the noble & excellent cause of missions suffered greatly from the palpable falsehoods, propagated by this man? I know it has. I have seen it & deplored it ever since my first visit to these islands. It has been one of the means of creating distrust & rancour between the missionaries & foreign residents, of rendering the cause of religion & charity odious, not only to these residents, but also to many of the poor creatures for whose benefit the institution was intended, & of sowing the seeds of discord & contention between the two parties, to impair the usefulness, & militate against the labors of the one, & excite the bad passions, & continued opposition of the other. But enough of this subject — I did not intend to have said so much upon it.

On my arrival, Mr. Pelly, agent of the Hon.ble H. Bay Co. kindly invited me to his house where I remained three days, at the end of that time, Mr. Jones procured for me a neat & very comfortable grass cottage, with an excellent bed, good furniture &c.&c. I am under the protection of Mr. Mills, (sometimes called Deacon Mills,) the high Constable, who lives next door to me & from whom my domicile is rented. I have kind & obliging neighbours, & a good active servant who waits upon me with the greatest assiduity, so that my bachelor's hall is no such contemptible establishment. Breakfast I generally take with Mr. Conrad who has another bachelor's hall in the neighbourhood; & as to dining & teaing I always have so many invitations that I can never be at a loss. Indeed they are so exceedingly hospitable to strangers here that sometimes it even becomes irksome. The society of the town has been considerably augmented & improved since my last visit, by the importation from the States of some four or five young ladies & so we have routes & balls & such things in profusion, far too much so indeed for one of my sober turn, & I have therefore come to a determination to cut the fashionables & their dissipation even at the expense of loosing a popularity which perhaps I seem possessed. The natives are fast becoming acquainted with me & my pursuits & are bringing me birds, shells, fishes &c. in considerable number. The birds they take by lining the branches of the trees with a sort of tenacious gum, & they are invariably brought alive & mostly uninjured. I have met here a Prussian gentleman, a naturalist, named Deppe, who arrived a few days since from California where he had been making collections. He states

that he had been very successful, particularly in Ornithology, but most unfortunately his Collections were all shipped from Monterey. So I had not had the pleasure of seeing his Specimens.

3rd This morning W. Corrie & myself called at the palace to see the King. At the door we met one of his numerous attendants who informed us that his Majesty was not within, & offered his services to conduct us to his office where he usually spends his mornings. Here we found him, & made our greetings, which he received & returned in a handsome manner. He gave us a glass of excellent madeira & a segar, & we smoked & chatted with him very pleasantly for ½ an hour. He does not look so well as when I last saw him, is now more careless in his person, & he never was remarkable for neatness or particularity in his attire. Many allowance should however be made for him now, as he is suffering great distress of mind on account of the extreme illness of his favourite lovely sister, the Princess Harieta Nahienaena. This is the girl of whom mention is so often made in Stewart's books. She is said to be very amiable & kind, & is universally beloved & respected by her people. While we were yet conversing with the King, a messenger came to say that she was worse & desired to see him. His majesty excused himself to us in a rather flurried & impatient manner but which was nevertheless not devoid of grace, & we saw his royal highness dart out of the door & run across the street in the direction of his sister's house without a coat, or suspenders to his trousers, in a manner neither very dignified nor kingly, but one which indicated most strongly the deep interest & attachment with which he regards this last scion of his noble house. Should Harieta die, the royal Hawaiian line will be broken forever. The insignia of Sandwich Island rank will be buried in her tomb, & ere long the last of a long line of kings will have departed from the earth. The princess is married to a young Chief named Pelea-hoku commonly called "Young Pitt." She has just borne a child which died a few hours after birth, & she is now suffering from severe puerperal fever. Doct. Rooke who attends her, feels very slight hopes of her recovery.

4th This afternoon Mr. Thompson, (a merchant of this place,) Mr. Corrie & myself rode down to Waikiki & to Diamond Hill. The day has been a most delicious one, our horses were excellent & we enjoyed the ride highly. In the upper part of the Waikiki district we passed through an extensive & beautiful Cocoanut grove, probably a mile in length by ¼ a mile in width. I can scarcely give you an idea of the delightful sensations produced by a quiet trot through this lovely place. The tall, straight & graceful palms without a single branch all the way to the summit, & there a simple pencil of leaves, with the fine fruit hanging in thick clusters amongst them, the clean, hard ground below, with not a blade of grass growing & appearing as though it had been swept with a broom, the delicious fragrance emitted by the trees, & the refreshing & grateful coolness of the place all conspired to produce sensations of the most delightful kind. Oh how I wished that You, my dear

Sisters could have enjoyed it with me. I thought of you, Ah! when do I not think of you? Yes I thought of you as I always do when I am gazing at any thing that gives me pleasure, & I thought if you were with me, how very much, how incalculably would this pleasure have been enhanced — Does my "repeating" Sister recollect the beautiful lines of Moore

"Oh that those the beloved of my bosom were here,
Who make every dear scene of enchantment more dear,
And who feel how the best charms of nature improve,
When we see them reflected from looks that we love."

In the midst of this grove we came to a small group of native houses, the inhabitants of which came running round our horses, the younger branches in a state of perfect nudity, & capering about like so many little imps of darkness. I told them I should like to have a couple of nuts from one of the trees. I had hardly spoken before two of them ran to the nearest & commenced mounting, one each side, & then best fellow reached the top soonest. They climed just like monkeys, placing their arms half way round the tree & their feet flat against it, & then actually jumping up the perpendicular trunk. You have seen the little curious creature called a measuring worm. Well their progress was precisely similar, & so exceedingly ludicrous did it appear, that I laughed 'till the tears actually rolled down my cheeks. My cachination was however interrupted by two nuts falling so near me that for a moment I felt in some danger of having my brains knocked out, & suspended my laughing fit to shake my fist angrily at the young urchins, who immediately after slid to the ground & with the greatest good humor held out their hands to receive a rial for their trouble. The milk of the young Cocoanut when just from the tree is peculiarly delicious & refreshing, & no idea can be formed of its excellence by those who have only tasted the stale fruit at home. After a pleasant ride around Diamond Hill we returned to the town in the evening —

6th Yesterday the Princess Harieta departed this life. Scarcely was the circumstance known in the town when it was announced to all by the most terrific, awful & distressing crying & wailing amongst all ranks & classes of people. The natives, particularly the women, walked the streets weeping bitterly & loudly, & real, bring tears were falling from their eyes in plenteous showers. This most lugubrious exhibition is common on the occasions of the death of any of the high Chiefs, but in the present instance there is evidently evinced much real feeling. In the afternoon Mr. Depps & myself walked to the Kings palace to see the mourners who were collected there. We found the large inclosed space surrounding the house filled with natives of both sexes to the number of perhaps a thousand, every one of whom was weeping in his loudest key. Young active men & women, old & decrepid ones who had just strength enough to crawl to the scene of action, Chiefs & common people,

public functionaries & beggars; all were mingled in one common herd, bewailing in Chorus their common loss. I observed several women of the highest rank standing in a group somewhat apart from the great concourse, who appeared affected in a peculiar manner. Tossing their arms over their head, & behind their necks, beating their breasts violently & frantically, & raging with their voices during the whole time as though they were suffering the most acute agony. In a few minutes this violent paroxysm would subside, & then the poor creatures would fall to the ground exhausted & breathless. After about a minute spent in total inactivity & apparent stupor, the voice & physical powers were suddenly recovered, & the consequence was a long succession of the most horrid shrieks, the mourners rolling over & over upon the ground, biting the earth & sobbing loud enough to be heard above the dreadful din of the multitude: soon after this, Commenced the most disgusting & barbarous part of the whole exhibition. A great number of men & women & even some little boys & girls laid themselves upon their backs on the ground in a row, & a man approached them with a small ivory or hard-wood wedge, & a large oval stone in his hand. He commenced his operations upon the first of the victims, who was a fine looking young man, - by placing the wedge between two of his fore teeth & striking it a hard & quick blow with the stone. This loosened it effectually: then by inserting the wedge upon the other side & giving another similar blow, out flew the tooth in an instant. In this manner every person who was lying there, lost, some two, & others three, of his front teeth, & during the whole time the crying was not suspended for an instant. You can judge of the horrid appearance they made with their mangled jaws hanging open, & the clotted gore dropping from their lips. Oh! it was so utterly dreadful & disgusting that I really felt sick & left the place almost immediately. The question naturally arises, Why have not the missionaries, who have such unbounded influence over this people, taken measures to abolish this most barbarous & shocking custom? They have, as I well know, used great exertion to do it away, & so far as the higher ranks of society are concerned, they have probably succeeded, but there are yet, & will for some time be, hundreds among the common people upon whom they can exert little or no influence. Reason & argument are thrown away upon such, as nothing will convince them of the absurdity of so old & long established a custom.

How often, how very often, do I thank Providence in my heart that I was born in a Christian & enlightened country, free from the shackles of barbarism, & under the influence of benign & wholesome laws. It is a blessing which those only who have witnessed a different state of things in other lands can properly appreciate.

A few days after this visit I went again to the palace, accompanied by several gentlemen, to see the body. It was neatly but plainly habited in white & reposed in a very simple coffin or rather shell of wood. Tomorrow the corpse is to be enclosed in a leaden coffin, & at the expiration of about a week, it will be conveyed to Mauí & placed in the royal vault there.

15th. Four days ago Mr. Dexter & myself went to one of the beautiful valleys back of the town

Called Nuano where we are now living. Our object has been to procure birds, plants &c & we have so far been very successful. I have already prepared over 80 birds that I procured here. We are very comfortably housed in a good native Cottage & a more delightful country residence I certainly never saw. The valley is narrow, only about a ¼ of a mile across, & the mountains on either side, at least 2 000 feet in height are clothed with the most beautiful verdure, with here & there a small patch of brown bare earth to vary the scene & relieve the eye. Within gunshot of our dwelling there is a beautiful cascade of delightfully cold mountain water, which falls perhaps 30 feet: the basin below gives us an excellent bath. & we can take a shower when we wish it by standing under one of the jets. Our Cottage stands upon elevated ground, we have a fine view of the town of Honolulu, 5 miles from us, as well as the lovely harbour & the Shipping. I am so pleased with this residence on every account that I shall be loth to leave it. I have escaped from the bustle & confusion, & dissipation of the town, from the at times, - almost insufferable heat which prevails there, & am living exactly as I wish to live, in a retired & quiet manner. We never suffer from heat here, & although this ~~January~~ is the rainy season, we have had uniformly fine weather, & there is at present every prospect of its continuance.

27th. I went this morning again to the palace of the King accompanied by Capt. Charlton, the British Consul, to see the remains of the princess. We saw there the widowed husband, Gov.r Boki, & several of the other Chiefs. Their grief appears to have almost entirely evaporated: the hand of time has had the effect, not only to soften down the pangs of recent sorrow, but even to render those who were but a few days ago under its severest influence, alive to all the joyousness & sprightly emotions attendant upon a reaction. The leaden Coffin is now enclosed in one of wood, covered with rich Crimson velvet, & elaborately studded & ornamented with brass. On the top is a brass plate with this inscription.

"Harieta
Nahienaena
22 Makahiki i make
i detemaba, he 30
la, i Ka makahiki
o Ko kakou
1836." *

The Coffin rests upon a trestle in the middle of the large house, & underneath it is a native mat of the finest & most delicate workmanship. This mat is considered a great Curiosity. It was made in the time of Tamehameha & presented to his queen. The grass

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* Harieta
Nahienaena
aged 22 years, died
on the 30th of December
In the year
of our Lord
1836.

+ See foot of page 35.

of which it is composed is about the thickness of a horse hair, & the fabric is as soft & pliant as a silken cloth. The coffin is covered with a large cloak made of the splendid yellow feathers of one of the native birds & surrounded by about a dozen of the magnificent insignia of royalty, called Kahiles. These Kahiles are feathers of different native birds, & some composed of the tail feathers of the common dung-hill cock, fastened together with light peices of bamboo & arranged cilindricall on a long pole. Many of these Kahiles are as much in circumferance as a hogshead & some few not thicker than a mans leg. Including the handle, they are most of them from 18 to 25 feet in length. The handle is composed of alternate rings of tortoise-shell & ivory, so accurately fitted & beautifully polished that at a short distance each appears like one peice. I observed that one of these handles was tipped with the bone of a human leg, & upon inquiry learned that it had belonged to one of the ancient Kings. This was also finely polished & looked like ivory, but the joint by which it was terminated had a rather grim & ghastly appearance. One of these Kahiles is of so ancient a date that the natives have no traditions respecting its fabrication. It is indeed a most antiquated looking affair, composed of a very dark of white feathers from a bird which is either now entirely extinct or which had been brought from a distance. The inhabitants know nothing of such a bird.

February 3rd. This was the day appointed for the ceremony of carrying the body of the dead princess to the Church. I had understood that it was to be concluded by the interment of the corpse, but in this I had been misinformed. After the rite was finished, it was returned to the Kings palace where it will probably still remain for a considerable time, previous to its removal to Maui. Yesterday the King sent invitations, (through the Consuls,) to all the foreign residents & visitors, that one o'clock to day all were assembled at the palace. The coffin still remained in the situation in which I last saw it, surrounded by the Kahiles. The house was well filled by foreigners & natives of rank, & the large enclosure without was crowded. The common men were variously attired, but the immense Concourse of women were all clothed in black from head to foot. After we had waited about an hour, the King, & Leleahokiu, (the husband of the deceased) entered. The foreigners all uncovered their heads, & his majesty acknowledged the civility by removing his own hat & making a low & very graceful bow. He was most magnificently attired in a fine blue regimental coat richly embroidered with gold & silver lace, & two splendid gold epaulets on the shoulders. His pantaloons were of very delicate white cassimere embroidered down the seams with fine gold lace, & from a Crimson sash depended a beautiful & highly ornamented dress sword, the scabbard of which was of fine gold. His Chapeau bras was in keeping with the rest of his attire,

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† This appears like a contradiction. It is stated on the Coffin plate that the Princess died on the 30th of Dec.r when it did not actually occur until the 3d of Jan.y This is accounted for by the peculiar & in some measure, reasonable, doctrine of the Sandwich islanders, that a person experiences two deaths: One of the mind & another of the body. Now the mind of the princess died, i.e. became deranged, on the 30th of December, although her body did not die until the 3d of January.

being of ~~fine~~ black beaver ornamented with broad bands of gold filagree.* The total ensemble was in the highest degree magnificent & Kingly, & certainly he wore the dress with most becoming dignity. His age is about two & twenty, his stature 5 feet 10, & the proportions of his person are most decidedly & strictly symmetrical. Like most of the Chiefs he appears to be inclining to obesity, & will probably, in a few years more lose much of the beauty of his form. He is now however one of the most graceful & dignified men in his appearance that I ever beheld. Young Pitt has a good, & rather handsome face, but his graces of person bear no comparison with those of his brother in law. His attire was also rich, with uniform coat, epaulets, Chapeau bras & sword, & all the high Chiefs were nearly similarly habited.

The procession was headed by a band of very good music, most of the performers being negroes: next followed the Missionaries in double file, then the hearse, which was a small plain cart drawn by about 20 natives. Next came the King who walked alone immediately behind the Coffin; he was followed closely by Young Pitt, also alone, & then came the high Chiefs, men & women, to the number of about 30, in double file. On either side of the hearse, the magnificent Kahilis were borne aloft by a number of the sub-Chiefs & favourites of the royal household & so enormously heavy were some of these, particularly when the wind struck them, that each of them required the utmost exertions of strong & strong men to keep it in a vertical position. After the Chiefs, followed all the respectable foreigners, two & two - headed by the Consuls, - to the number of perhaps 100: then a long line of females all habited in deep black, & the rear was brought up by a motley throng of all denominations & in every variety of costume. From the head of the procession nearly to the fort on each side, were placed the King's guards in Indian file, - They were dressed in a complete suit of white with red & blue cuffs to their jackets, & every man carried his musket reversed. When the line was formed, the music played a solemn dead march, & the procession moved toward the native Church at the lower end of the town. During the whole distance (about a mile), the ground had been strown with fresh grass, forming a pleasant carpet, & preventing in a great measure, the rising of clouds of dust which would otherwise have been very uncomfortable.

The whole pageant was "got up" with the greatest splendour, & was conducted with singular order & regularity, nothing occurring which in the slightest degree tended to produce confusion.

When the procession arrived at the Church, the music ceased, a large bell which hangs in the area was tolled every 10 seconds, & the whole company entered the ~~church~~ house & sought their seats. The bier was placed on the ground opposite the pulpit, the King & the other Chiefs sitting by the side of it, & the bearers kneeling beneath the cart. The service was opened by an address in the native language by the Rev. W. Bingham - this was followed by hymns, short addresses, & prayers alternately by several other Missionaries who were present. At the conclusion of the service,

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* This most splendid & appropriate uniform was presented some years ago to the King by subscription of the foreign residents at Oahu. It was made in Lima & cost 800 dollars! The presentation is said to have been rather imposing. It was performed at the palace & most of the high Chiefs were present. Mr. Jones made a speech on the occasion which was promptly answered by his majesty.

which occupied about 1½ hours – the procession again formed & returned in the same order to the palace, where, after a short prayer in the native language from Mr Bingham, the Cabalcade dispersed. The body will probably remain in the palace for two months longer, when it will be conveyed to Maui & deposited.

6th Yesterday Mr French kindly offered me a passage in his brig Diana – Capt Hinckley – to make a short tour of the islands. The time allowed me will be so short that I shall probably not be able to do much in the way of collecting, but I shall at least be furnished with an opportunity of visiting several islands.

At 4 this afternoon we got the pilot on board & stood out of the harbour with a fine wind.

10th This afternoon we made Maui, but as we came under the land it fell calm with a heavy ground swell & we were tossing on it the whole night. Two of our passengers have been very sick since we left the harbour & are still suffering extremely.

14th Yesterday we made Maui again after having been cruising around the islands at the mercy of contrary winds since Friday. On Sunday we were running along Hawaii within 8 miles of the land & we could easily have brought in to the bay of Kaakakua, but that we have lumber on board which must first be landed at Maui. This morning when I rose we were off the pretty village of Lahaina, & in about two hours afterwards we dropped our anchor within a mile. While the ships people were engaged in discharging cargo, Mr Paty – one of our passengers – & myself went ashore to see the town. The village is one of the prettiest I have seen; many of the houses are built of stone, handsomely white washed, & at Honolulu, a very picturesque looking fort frowns upon you as you approach the harbour. These forts, although they add greatly to the appearance of the harbours in which they are situated, yet appear to me to be better calculated for show than service, as in case of an attack from the sea, they could not act efficiently, not being provided with bastions; & in addition to this, they are built in such a loose & unsubstantial manner that probably the very means that would be taken by its inmates to repel an enemy would be more surely calculated for its own destruction than even the fire of that enemy. I mean that the cannonading from the fort, if long persisted in, would almost certainly level the walls with the ground. The houses composing the village of Lahaina are many of them so obscured by Cocoanut & Kow trees, – Cordia sebestena – that you cannot in any situation see the whole of the town at a single view even from the offing. On a high hill two miles back of the town stands another village called Lahainaluna (or upper Lahaina) composed entirely of white stone houses. It is here that the missionaries chiefly reside. The high school here is a large & fine looking building of stone, thatched with grass, & stands on an elevated piece of ground so as to be distinctly seen some miles out at sea. I called with Mr Paty at the mission house in the upper town upon Mr. Andrews to whom I had a letter of introduction from the Rev. Mr. Dibble. At the house of Mr. Andrews I met several other missionaries, Mr. Baldwin, Mr. Rogers, & Mr. Dibble. These gentlemen are all more or less concerned in the management of the high school, but Mr. Andrews is the principal. It was commenced by the latter in the year 1831. For some time it was held under a simple ramada or shed made of grass, & since then it has gone on increasing & improving with a

rapidity almost unprecedented. The school now consists of about 75 scholars, chiefly boys, & the improvement of many of them is surprising. From all I can learn, (for the school is at present closed & I have not had an opportunity of seeing the pupils) the advancement manifested by them is fully equal in every respect to those of similar seminaries in our own country. Attached to this branch of the mission is a printing office, the whole paraphernalia of which is managed by natives, under the superintendance of Mr. Rogers; & Mr. Andrews exhibits impressions of maps of different parts of the world which have been engraved on copper by the pupils of the school. These efforts are exceedingly creditable, not only to the boys themselves, but to their tutors, showing the untiring perseverance with which they must have labored, especially as none of them had ever before seen the operation performed. Mr. Andrews is a very indefatigable & most superior man as his works abundantly testify. Contending as he constantly is against indisposition, he yet attends most diligently & faithfully to the peculiarly arduous duties of the school, & during the very few hours of relaxation which each day affords, he is busily engaged in writing for the benefit of the mission & its objects. He is the author of a compendious vocabulary of the Hawaiian language published at these islands some years since, & he is now employed on a new & much enlarged edition of the same work. Mr. Paty & myself had a very pleasant visit at his house; dined with him & his family, & took tea in the evening at Mr. Baldwin's in Lahaina.

It is well known to all who visit the Sandwich Islands, as well as to many at home who have friends residing there, that the missionaries are exceedingly unpopular amongst the resident foreigners. This sort of animosity is probably not confined to those who reside in this particular spot of the habitable globe, but is no doubt common every where. Why it is, or should be so, I will not stop to inquire, but will merely remark, that so far as my own intercourse & intimacy with these missionaries has extended, & according to the opportunities I have had of judging of the relative merits of the case, my opinion decidedly is, that there is no good & sufficient reason for this rancour & ill feeling. Who are the missionaries? They are men who have left the homes of their childhood, the parents, the brothers, the sisters, the friends of their bosoms, & for what? To dwell in distant lands amongst the uncivilized & the barbarous:- to labor for these with all the energy of their minds & bodies, & what do they receive for it?- Nothing - except the reward of a good conscience & of a life spent in the noblest service that can engage the bodily & mental powers of a Christian. Why then should they be opposed? Why should those calling themselves Christians take every possible opportunity of thwarting & rendering null the purposes & labors of men such as these? Grant that there may be bad & designing persons among them, does this circumstance affect the cause itself? Surely not. Why then should not the foreigners, instead of opposing, & laboring to subvert their measures, endeavour to aid these devoted people in their most laborious task, or if they do not aid, let them at least assume a neutrality, & neither place themselves in the ranks of opposition nor endeavour to induce others to do so.

15th. This evening we weighed our anchor & stood out of the harbour of Lahaina, but the wind being light we made very little progress during the night. The next morning a heavy gale commenced, which

Compelled us to reduce our canvass to a double reefed maintopsail & foresail; the sea was tremendously agitated & our brig danced like a bubble on the waves, but although this was somewhat uncomfortable, we could endure it cheerfully as we were proceeding on our course at the rate of 5 or 6 knots. At 3 in the afternoon we made Hawaii distant 45 miles. Shortly after this the wind fell, & during the night it was nearly calm with a smooth sea.

14th. When I rose this morning (about 5 o'clock) the island of Hawaii was ahead, distant only 18 miles. We had only a light air before which we were going but two knots. At about noon we got the sea breeze & stood in to Kaiakakua bay where we anchored at 2 o'clock. This is a most beautiful & very safe anchorage. You get 15 fathoms within ½ of a mile of the shore. The land is composed almost entirely of rough & irregular masses of lava, but towards the summits of the hills vegetation is profuse like Oahu. The shore, for miles in both directions, is sprinkled with the little sylvan looking hamlets of this country, & they are sometimes so thickly grouped together as to form the most picturesque & beautiful villages. On the hill fronting the bay is one of these, at which the missionary, Mr. Forbes, resides, & about 18 miles from this there is a considerable town called Kairua, the residence of the Chief, John Adams, governor of Hawaii. In the afternoon Mr. Paty & myself went on shore chiefly for the purpose of seeing the spot on which Capt. Cook was killed in the year 1779.

When we made this inquiry after we landed, a number of natives ran to the beach, & pointed out to us the exact spot where the gallant mariner received his death blow. My sisters can in a measure understand the feelings with which I viewed the rock on which this brave & excellent man offered up his life to the service of his country; I cannot describe them. I had read the voyages of Cook with great interest when I was a child: I had pondered over his dangers, his magnificent discoveries, the intense excitement of his life; & his premature & violent death: but if at that time any one had told me that I should ever visit the scene of his discoveries, & stand upon the identical rock which was pressed by his bleeding bosom, I should have laughed at it as too chimerical & improbable for belief: but as my friend Ben says "We know not what human natur' may be brought to" – how I am, that's certain, although positively at times I can scarcely realize it. This rock is somewhat isolated, & at high tide the waters break over its summit. It is said to be at present not one fourth its original size, as almost every visitor for a great number of years has been in the habit of carrying away a fragment of it as a relic, & it is in consequence very much diminished. The French man of war La Bonite which was lately here is said to have taken off about a ton of it, & some Spaniards who visited this island several years since, not only took specimens of the rock but the whole ship's company knelt upon it & offered up a prayer for the repose of the hero's soul.

There is perhaps no one unfortunate circumstance connected with foreigners that has ever occurred here, which the natives of these islands so deeply regret as the death of Cook. They all speak of it to this day as a lamentable event, & some of the Elders of them are said even to shed tears when the subject is mentioned. They have canonized him, & he is universally known by the title of "Orono"; a particular deity. I have concluded to postpone my visit

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to W. Forbes, the Missionary (to whom I have a letter from Mr. Bicknell) until the morning; as he lives upon the hill, & I have not had time to day.

18th After breakfast this morning I went on shore & saw Mr. Forbes at the lower village where he was engaged in opening packages received by our vessel. Towards noon I accompanied him to his house on the hill, a distance of about 3 miles. At about one mile from the shore on the hill is a monument erected in 1825 by Lord Byron, (Capt.n of his Br. Majesty's ship "Blond") to the memory of Capt. Cook. It consists of a simple wall of lava about 5 feet high inclosing a square of 20 feet, in the centre of which is a cedar post 12 feet high, & near the top a copper plate with the inscription.

"In memory
of
Capt. James Cook, R.N.
Who discovered these Islands
In the year of our Lord 1778.
This humble monument is erected
By his fellow Countrymen
In the year of our Lord
1825."

This post is completely covered with the initials of persons who have from time to time visited the spot, chiefly the masters, officers & crews of vessels, & among them I noticed the very characteristic name of "Coffin, Nantucket".

I dined at Mr. Forbes' & afterwards walked through the woods in the vicinity for several miles. Saw some birds that I have never noticed at the other islands, & regretted the absence of my gun. I purchased from one of the men here, three of the beautiful native Geese for a dollar each. This is a sort of Brant, very similar in many respects to our common one at home. The membranes separating the toes are much more deeply scalloped, & on the neck the feathers are formed in longitudinal curving lines which give the bird a very singular & beautiful appearance. These Geese are said to possess an uncommon degree of sagacity, very soon becoming acquainted with their master, & even following him about like a dog. They are also very good watches at night, giving alarm by a loud cackling on the approach of a stranger. I shall use my utmost endeavours to carry my pretty pets home. After tea I bade adieu to my kind entertainers & rode down to the shore on a horse furnished me by Mr. Forbes, & went off to the ship in a canoe.

19th Last evening at 11 o'clock we might anchor & went out of the bay with the land breeze, but this soon failing us, & the current carrying us rapidly to leeward, we were compelled to bring in to Karakakooa again, where we again dropped our anchor at 1 o'clock. We shall now remain here until Monday night as Capt. Hinckley is desirous of completing his cargo of wood; & for myself I am very much pleased by the detention, as I shall be furnished with an opportunity of visiting the shore again, & probably of procuring some birds. For this purpose I have made arrangements for going on the hill at an early hour tomorrow morning.

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At 4 o'clock this morning Mr. Paty & myself walked up to Mr. Forbes' & after an early breakfast, procured two native men, & spent the day in the neighbouring woods looking for birds. One, a Cassicus with yellow axillary feathers, (which are used by the natives in making the ornament called "Re", & worn on the heads,) was pretty plentiful, but the other birds were so few in number as to procure but little to compensate me for my trouble. The travelling here is often difficult, & sometimes even dangerous, particularly on the hills, in consequence of a thick undergrowth of bushes intermixed with large masses of rough, porous lava. There is here a small species of Crow which at times is said to be pretty numerous, but we did not see any; as, in consequence of a long drought which has prevailed here, they, as well as many other birds, have retired back into the mountains in order to procure water. We returned to Mr. Forbes' house at 4 in the afternoon & found him preparing his goods & chattels for a passage to Oahu in our brig. He takes his wife & two children with him. At 7 in the evening they came on board, & at 9 we got under weigh with the periodical land breeze.

21st. When I rose this morning I was surprized to find that we were lying nearly stationary abreast of opposite Kaiakakua which we left last evening. Although during the night we had a three knot breeze, yet the current was so rapid as to overcome this, & cause us to go astern. At 9 o'clock the wind freshened & we made some headway. The remainder of the day the wind continued fine, & the next morning at 9 we anchored off Kawaihae. This is a barren & most unattractive looking place, a rambling sort of village containing about 50 houses, but no vegetation except a few scattered Cocoanuts, & an occasional Now & Tutui tree. The soil is composed entirely of volcanic earth, or the pulverization of lava & basalt. I observe none of the handsome taro patches here that form such a relief to the Eye when scanning this rugged country in other places. From our anchorage we have a view of several of the Colossal mountains & peaks of this island, among which the majestic point of Mauna Kea stands preëminent. I have not yet seen Mauna roa except from a considerable distance at sea, & I suppose that now the gratification of a nearer view will not be afforded me. I cannot too much regret that I have had no opportunity of visiting this celebrated & stupendous volcano.

23rd. Yesterday morning I went on shore with Capt. Kinckley & others & called upon Mrs. Young, the widow of the late John Young, the oldest foreign resident of the Sandwich Islands. He came in the year 1789 since which time he never left them, & died about a year ago in his 90th year. Mrs. Young is a sister of old King Tamehameha & is now probably 60 years of age, a very pleasant & lady-like old woman. We were kindly received & treated by her at her house. In the afternoon we visited a large Heiau or temple in the neighbourhood. This temple, (which of course has never been used as such since the abolition of idolatry,) was built in the early part of the reign of Tamehameha. In it were deposited the gods of wood & stone which the natives worshipped, & at regular periods a human victim was offered as a sacrifice to their imaginary deity. These victims consisted chiefly of convicts, or those who had been guilty of misdemeanors, but when the stock commonly kept on hand would fail, (which not unfrequently happened,) the authorities rarely scrupled to supply the deficiency

either by forcing the common people to commit crimes worthy of the punishment, or by entrapping them into a confession of some or other petty transgression*. The Heiau is built of stones laid together enclosing a square of about 200 feet. The walls are thirty feet high & about 16 feet thick at the base from which they gradually taper to the top where they are about 4 feet across. There is no roof or covering of any kind to the temple. In the centre is a platform of smooth stones carefully laid together, but without any previous preparation, raised to within ten feet of the top of the wall. It was on this platform that the victims were sacrificed, the gods standing around outside in niches made for their accomodation.

There is near the Heiau another very similar, though smaller edifice of stone, called a Morai. This was used for nearly similar purposes, & in addition, it was the place to which the bodies of the dead Chiefs were carried previous to interment. After lying here in state for a longer or shorter time, according to the grade of rank held by the deceased, the flesh was stripped from the bones, & buried in the sea. The bones were then taken & deposited in caves or subterranean vaults which concluded the ceremony. On Oahu, near Diamond Hill in the district of Waititi are several of these morais, but they have generally gone to decay & are not near so perfect as the present one.

24th. The ship's people have been engaged the whole day in taking cattle on board, five are now deep in the waters, having upwards of 20 head stowed under the hatches. These cattle are procured wild on the island by Spaniards who live here for the purpose. They take them by means of lassos & display great dexterity in the business. This operation has been so often described that I need not repeat it here, suffice it to say, that all the bullocks on board have been taken expressly for us by three Spaniards since our arrival here on Wednesday.

At ½ past 8 in the evening a most brilliant, & very unusually large meteor was seen to start from a point near the zenith, & take its course to the N.E. describing the arc of a large circle. It then scintillated, & did not entirely disappear until it had very nearly reached the horizon. Its size appeared about the head of a hogshead, & the light emitted was so glaring & intense that all on deck were compelled to veil their eyes. Although the night was unusually dark, yet all the spars & rigging of the vessel were for a moment most distinctly seen. The natives, of whom we have a number with us, have never before seen one which approached it in size.

25th. At daylight this morning we got under weigh; the wind, which was at first light, soon shifted, & our vessel went before it at the rate of 6 Knots. At about 10 o'clock we came in sight of Mani, Kaaavalawi, Rauai & Morokai, & soon after, of the small isolated rock called Morokinni. We have had this morning some rather rough weather, & as usual most of our passengers have been suffering from sea sickness. To add to this list we have now the Missionary, W. Forbes, his wife & two Children & at times the scene on the quarter deck

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*I understand that it was also a common practice to sacrifice a victim on the occasion of the death of any of the higher Chiefs as a propitiation to the idol in favor of the departed. At such times they were even more unscrupulous than ordinary. A victim must be procured in order for the repose of the troubled spirit, & it was therefore frequently made an excuse for the most direct & cruel injustice.

is quite distressing. It is the more so as this troublesome malady admits of no remedy, & I believe it is generally conceded that it is one of the most unendurable of temporary diseases with which poor weak stomachs are assailed. I have often thought I could not feel too thankful that I have never suffered in the slightest degree from this disagreeable complaint. I have seen some pretty rough weather too, but, when all around me have been retching & vomiting & groaning, I have never experienced the slightest qualm. Our vessel is now literally stowed full, so much so as to be at times rather unpleasant. All forward of the mainmast, both above & below, is crowded with Cattle; - the 'tween-decks are stowed with hides, & the quarter deck with passengers of all colors, from the fair skinned European, to the deep copper colored native, not omitting the intermediate grade of half casts. Men, women & Children of various families are all huddled together in one common mass, lolling about, talking & smoking during the day, & sleeping & grunting like Swine at night. The effluvia arising from the mass of native bodies during a still, warm evening is not equal to Otto of roses, & I have often been compelled to forego the pleasure of a nocturnal lounge on deck & dive to the Cabin for purer air. This effluvia is owing to a common habit among these people, & particularly of the women, of anointing the hair & body with Cocoanut oil. This oil in a recent state possesses an aromatic & rather agreeable odor, but when allowed to become rancid it is most insufferably rank & disgusting. When in this rancid state its cosmetic properties are supposed to be improved, & it is then applied in large quantities to the whole person. Were it not for this disagreeable & unsavory practice the women here would be well calculated to please the taste of a stranger, as many of them are strictly handsome & remarkably graceful in their deportment. I believe that most of those who are married to foreigners here have declined this disgusting practice.

6th. During last night the weather was nearly calm, but this morning at 9 o'clock a light breeze sprang up which soon carried us in sight of Oahu distant about 30 miles. We had expected to have arrived early this morning & no doubt should have done so if the weather had favored us. The Cattle on board are suffering extremely from confinement & want of air; several have already died & we shall probably lose a number more if we should not reach the harbour to day. My pretty native Geese are doing well - they have become quite domestic & appear to know me. If I should succeed in carrying these beautiful birds home they will be very valuable & a great curiosity.

7th. Last night at 9 o'clock the wind again freshened, (the weather having been calm during the greater part of the day) & continued fine during the whole night, so that when we rose this morning we found our vessel off Coco-a-head. We soon after rounded Diamond Hill, took the pilot on board & at 9 o'clock anchored in the harbour & drew up close to the wharf to discharge our cargo of Cattle.

March 16th. I have been engaged for a week past in packing my Collections & baggage, arranging my little affairs & making calls upon my friends preparatory to embarking for Valparaiso, via Otaheite, in a ship which will sail from here tomorrow. I have now been here nearly three months, much longer than I expected to have been detained. My time has been employed chiefly in perfecting my scientific ~~studies~~ memoranda, collecting specimens &c

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in which I have been as successful as I anticipated. In this pursuit I have rec^d much & very steady assistance from many of the resident Foreigners here, & as a lasting mark with them to accept my most unfeigned thanks both for this & for the uniform hospi-tality & kindness with which they have treated me. To P. C. Jones Esq^r. the Am. Consul, my acknowledgements are particularly due. I shall always remember with gratitude the many favors he has conferred upon me. My Companion from the Columbia, - Mr. Cowie - concludes to remain for the present in the hope of soon meeting with an opportunity of returning home by a more direct route. The ship in which I shall take passage, the Europa of 250 tons, is owned by Henry Skinner Esq^r. of London who is now here & goes passenger in her to Valparaiso; is commanded by Capt. Sam^l. T. Shaw of this port. With the former I have been for some time intimate, & our acquaintance has created between us a bond of union, which will lead, I think, to a firm & enduring friendship. I anticipate a pleasant passage, both from the circumstance of performing it with one whom I so highly esteem, & from the kind & obliging manners of our Captain. The ship is a very excellent one, a fast Sailer & Comfortable sea boat. We have also two other passengers, Capt. Winkworth, formerly of this vessel, for Tahiti, & Mr. Murphy, an Irish gentleman - for Valparaiso.

9th. At 7 this morning the pilot went on board the vessel & took her out of the harbour with a fair wind. In an hour after Mr. Skinner & myself went aboard in a boat & got under weigh immediately. From this time until 5 in the afternoon we had a strong wind & heavy sea. The wind then lulled, but the sea continued heavy the remainder of the Evening. Two of our passengers, Messrs. Skinner & Murphy, have been very sea sick all day.

10th. The Calm Continued almost the whole of this day, with the sea heavy as before & kept us to-ing about upon it most uncomfortably. Mr. Murphy has already recovered from his sickness, but Mr. Skinner still suffers considerably. During the evening & night we had a fine & kind breeze. The calm of yesterday & to day is attributable to the vicinity of several of the Windward islands, one or two of which we saw indistinctly during the afternoon, but having now run past them, we have taken the N.E. trades & are sailing along most delightfully.

I think that of all enjoyments I have ever experienced since I became a dweller in distant lands, there is none that has ever possessed for me such a Charm, there is none that has ever excited in me such a thrill of delight & pleasure as an evening sail upon a moon-lit sea. I can hang for hours over the gunwale as the ship is ploughing through the deep blue waters: I gaze upon the lovely moon & turn my face towards my father land, & then, Oh then do I not fancy I can see my quiet peaceful home, do I not fancy that I can commune with the loved objects there! - All, all rise before me with a distinctness at times almost startling. I see my excellent & affectionate father, my beloved & tender mother, my dear Sisters, Brothers, all that I love, & I think I can see them beckoning to the wanderer & entreating him to turn his footsteps homeward. I have experienced these feelings this evening in a very uncommon degree. It is now 8 bells in the middle watch, the officer is pacing the quarter deck muffled in his large pea-jacket, the helmsman stands by the wheel, the drowsy watch are lolling on the forecastle, & all else are asleep. But I cannot sleep, nor ~~would~~ I if I could. Let me doze away the day but on such a night as this it would be sacrilege to sleep —

April 1st. Since I last wrote nothing particular has occurred to vary the monotony of a sea voyage. We have generally been favored with good breezes, though the sea has been mostly rough. On thursday last we crossed the equatorial line & our latitude is now 3° 52' South.

8th Yesterday morning at 10 o'clock "Land ho" was sung out by a man at the mast head & we ascertained it to be Dennis Island, distant about 15 miles. We had a fine 8 knot breeze & we rapidly approached, & soon passed it within 5 miles. This is a very long low island, profusely covered with vegetation, very undulating, & with a fine sand beach surrounding it upon which the surf breaks furiously. It is said to be sparsely inhabited by people of a very wild & unsocial nature. Ships rarely touch here, as the island produces nothing to tempt the cupidity of our mariners. In the evening we had a heavy squall with rain & incessant & very vivid lightning. We shortened sail immediately & lay-to under a double reefed maintopsail & reefed foresail. For about an hour, when the gale subsided, a dead calm of about the same duration succeeded. During the storm we observed a little speck of brilliant light like a star resting upon the main truck or top of the mainmast. In a few minutes after a similar light appeared upon the summits of both the other masts & continued visible for about an hour. This is what sailors call a "Compliasant" & is of course occasioned by an excess of electricity in the atmosphere. The rationale I leave for others to explain. In the afternoon of to day we made Tahiti (or Otaheite as it is called in Cook's voyages) & the next morning approached to within two miles of it, brought our vessel to in a fine breeze & hoisted our signal for a pilot. After waiting about two hours, a native man who spoke english well, boarded us in a whale boat & announced himself as authorized pilot of the port. The charge of the vessel was of course given into his hands, & in another hour we were riding at anchor in a beautiful & very safe harbour. Tahiti, like most islands in these seas is round, surrounded by a coral reef, a narrow passage only being found for entrance, but the native pilot appears to be a skillful man. I am told that no accident has ever happened here. The outline of this island is exceedingly uneven & rugged, being formed by high mountains & valleys alternately, but the whole of the land is profusely covered with vegetation. The bay in which we are anchored (Papeete) is one of the most beautiful I have seen: the water in the harbour is at all times so smooth & placid that no motion whatever can be felt on board a vessel riding at anchor, & the shore fringed with Cocoanut, Bread-fruit & Banana trees, with the neat white-washed cottages sprinkled amongst them, forms a view at once striking & lovely. There are about 8 whale ships now in the port, & several of the masters of these, as well as some resident gentlemen from the shore, visited us shortly after we came to anchor: Among the latter were, the missionary of this station, - the Rev.d Mr. Pritchard - Doct. Vaughan, Mr. William Henry & others. Soon after, Mr. Skinner & myself went on shore & called upon the U.S. Consul, - Mr. Mercenant - to whom I had a letter of introduction from Mr. Jones of Oahu. He received us kindly & we spent an hour with him very pleasantly. We partook of a good dinner at the house of Mr. Henry after which, Mr. Skinner & several other gentlemen, with myself took a stroll back of the village. If I was pleased with the appearance of the harbour from the anchorage, how much more was I delighted with the opportunity of rambling in the interior. Soon after we left the house we entered upon an excellent turnpike road which has been made by natives, chiefly Convicts, & comprizes nearly the whole circuit of the island. This, - as is almost every part of this lovely isle, -

is a complete orchard of the most delicious of the tropical fruits – Vast groves of Oranges, Lemons, Guavas &c. &c. growing wild in the most prodigal profusion; patches of fine apples, interminable forests of Bananas, Cocoanuts & Vi's*, & all without ownership. Well may it be said this is a highly favored & most fruitful land; the native do not require to cultivate the earth. it teems with every luxury that their unsophisticated palates crave. For a meal they have but to enter the forest & gather a mess of bread-fruit, Bananas, Guavas & kill a pig from the large droves which are constantly roaming the Country in a half wild state, & fattening to obesity on the ripe & lovely fruit which every where strews the ground.

I have remarked a number of beautiful birds this evening such as I have never before seen. One in particular is very numerous, – a Thrush, which sings most delightfully.

10th I strolled during the whole of this day through the woods & procured a number of very pretty birds. They are all quite new to me. Among the most remarkable of them, are, the fine Thrush mentioned before, a beautiful & very small Parroquet, blue, with white throat; a lovely Dove, green, with vinaceous breast & azure Crown, several Fly catchers &c. &c. As we shall probably sail in a very few days, it is necessary for me to be busy in order to procure specimens of the whole.

15th This day, although with us in our ship account, Saturday the 8th, is Sunday the 16th. at Taheite. This is accounted for, by the fact of the early missionaries who settled here, having made the passage around the Cape of Good Hope instead of Cape Horn, & making no allowance for casting, consequently gained near a day in their reckoning. The mistake has never since been corrected, & at the present time it would perhaps, not be advisable to do so.

I attended, with most of the gentlemen of the place, – the native Church at 9 o'clock in the morning. Mr. Pritchard the missionary, performed the service, & I was pleased, not only with the order & regularity of the exercises, but with the strict & decorous attention & deportment of the native audience. The hymns were sung with much taste & skill, & many of the voices, – particularly of the females, – were sweet & well trained. The Chapel is a very neat & pretty piece of workmanship somewhat in the style of those at the Sandwich Islands, but more tasteful & lighter. The roof, instead of a thatch of grass, is neatly covered with the large leaves of a species of Pandanus, handsomely & ingeniously worked in light reeds, & the beams are wrapped, for about ft. of their length, with alternate strips of fine sennit & mats of different colors, & add very much to the general appearance of the building.

At 11 o'clock we attended the English Chapel, where Mr. Pritchard also officiated. 4th.

16th This evening Mr. Skinner & myself paid a visit to the mission family. Mr. Pritchard is a man of considerable intelligence & appears well qualified for the station he holds. His wife is in every respect a lovely woman.

20th We expected ere this to have been again on the wide ocean & sailing towards Valparaiso, but Mr. Skinner has found profitable business here which has obliged him

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*. This is the Spondias dulcis of botanists – a large & wide spreading tree, bearing a most delicious fruit somewhat like a pear & about the same size.

to detain the vessel. We shall remain here several days longer. This detention has been to me a very welcome one, as it has enabled me to explore the County much more extensively than I expected, & to collect a considerable number of birds.

May 2nd. We are now quite ready for sea & are only waiting a breeze to go out. All my little matters are packed & sent on board the ship, & I am now as anxious as any one to make a start. I have done all that is to be done here in the Ornithological way, & there are no plants in flower so that I have had no botanising. I have prepared 46 species of birds, (all the varieties I could find,) most of them I think peculiar to this island. Number of specimens about 110. Within a few days past I have killed three specimens of a very beautiful & large Cuckoo (Cuculus) remarkable for the great length of its tail. I have every reason to believe this fine bird a new species – if it should prove so it will surely be a noble addition to the oceanic fauna. It is at all times rare & very difficult to be procured, & I am told by the residents here that it has never been obtained by any collectors who have formerly visited this island. The common Dunghill Fowl is found wild in the forests here. Some assert that it is a "jungle fowl" peculiar to the County, but on examination I have not been able to distinguish any material difference between it & the domesticated bird, & therefore incline to the belief that it is the common one returned to its original habits. In my excursions after specimens I have killed about a dozen of them. Their plumage is generally more rich & brilliant than that of the domesticated bird, & there is not so much variety in the color of different individuals. Their flesh is exquisite. They are very shy, running away with singular rapidity & concealing themselves on the approach of the Sportsman. When flushed, they fly with great vigor & swiftness, & where the trees & bushes are not too dense, afford a very good mark.

14th. This morning the wind being fair, we took the pilot on board, & at 8 o'clock stood out. While in the middle of the passage the breeze fell very light, & our vessel began to bring towards the high & dangerous reef which was just beside us. For myself I gave our good ship up for lost, & I was waiting to see her dashed upon the rocks, which I thought was inevitable. This was evidently the opinion of our Captain also. As he stood upon the rail looking out ahead & casting his eyes anxiously upon the sunken rocks under our quarter, I perceived his countenance change. But still he was calm, & gave his orders – in obedience to the signals of the pilot, – with coolness & precision. At the instant when I fancied, (& I believe correctly,) that we were in the most imminent peril, a light breeze struck our sails which soon filled them & the ship made some headway: then followed a strong puff, & in 5 minutes more we were past all danger. The captain sprang down from the rail ejaculating, "Thank God, thank God!" & he had reason. A fine ship, a valuable cargo, & perhaps many more valuable lives in all probability depended upon that single puff of wind. After congratulating ourselves upon our escape, we all turned anxiously to look to the situation of a whale ship which attempted the passage a few minutes after us under the direction of a deputy appointed by the authorized pilot. While in difficulty ourselves we had enough to do to look after our own ship, but now that it was past, all our sympathy was excited for our fellow probationers. He appeared to have more wind than ourselves, & was coming out beautifully, when suddenly, from a cause to us

unknown, he steered towards the reef, & the next moment, to our consternation & horror, the fine ship struck, hung by her keel & heeled over 'till her yards were in the water. She soon however righted again only to go over upon the other side. Her sails were still set & indeed drew well with the wind which came freshly off the land, but she would not move, but kept rolling & grinding upon the rough coral, & showing her clean copper bottom to us at every moment. The intense & painful interest which we took in the situation of our poor neighbour would not suffer us to run away & leave him, & accordingly, Capt. Shaw, Mr. Skinner & myself went off to him in our boat. When we arrived, we found the whale boats belonging to all the ships in the port had come out with their Commanders & Crews to render all the assistance they could to their unfortunate brother. Most of the boats were made fast to the bowsprit of the ship & it was attempted to tow her off - hawsers were carried out, & Kedge Anchors & every other means resorted to to get her clear but all to no purpose. The devoted ship continued forging higher & higher upon the reef, & in a very few minutes, more it was found necessary to cut away the masts in order to lighten & right her. I scarcely ever in my life felt more distressed than when I heard this order given. It was however necessary that it should be done in order that the cargo might be saved. The poor ship seemed like a human creature in its agony - tossing & groaning as on a bed of pain. A dozen men with axes in their hands mounted the weather rail, & in a minute the back-stays & shrouds were cut away. The heavy masts reeled & swayed from side to side for an instant & then fell hurtling & crashing into the sea. Then indeed

"A wreck complete she roll'd"

One little hour before she had been a noble & stately ship in all the majesty of her beauty, & contained within her many a manly heart beating to distinguish itself, or thinking with delight upon the happy home & family which it was then about to seek. How changed are now the prospects! The beautiful fabric is in ruins, & those who risked their all within her are disheartened & undone. I have pondered on these things 'till I have felt quite melancholy, & I have reflected too, how nearly this deplorable situation had been our own.

When the masts went over the side the poor ship righted, as though she felt relieved of a burthen, but in a very short time the Cry "She has bilged" was heard from her decks & the people were put to work getting out all the most valuable private articles & passing them out of the Cabin windows. Here they were received in boats & taken on shore. Soon after this we observed, as the hull rose & fell, the water pouring in & out of her counter, & very soon she settled upon one side & there she lay with one of her gunwales under water fast anchored upon the Coral reef. Nothing more was to be done towards saving the ship, & now all the efforts of the Crew were directed to getting out the Cargo of oil. Meanwhile we, who could render no service, concluded to go ashore, & as we were about pushing off from the wreck, the Capt. of the ship requested a passage with us. As we pulled into the harbour I wished to say something in the way of consolation to the poor fellow, but I had no language in which to express my feelings. He is a young man, only 27 years of age, highly spoken of for his activity

perseverance & honesty, has raised himself from the lowest Station to a Command, entirely by his good Conduct; this is his first voyage as master, & so far it had been remarkably successful. After we left the ship in the boat he seemed more calm than I had expected - but as we drew near the shore he trusted himself with one look towards his former home, & it was too much for him - he threw himself back in the boat & wept like a Child! - I could have almost wept with him for I appreciated & respected his feelings. A ship is a Sailor's home, his Castle, he loves her next to his wife & family, & where is the man with a heart in his bosom who can look upon his home in ruins & not feel it bleed within him at the sight! -

3d. This afternoon W. Skinner & myself went off to our ship in a boat, (Capt. Shaw went yesterday), set Sail & went out to Sea immediately. The wreck of the whale ship is still in Statue quo & has not yet gone to pieces which is Surprizing. All hands are busy in getting out her cargo, but it is probable they will not save more than 1/3 of it. Many of the casks are already Stove, & it is prob'le more will be lost in the attempt to get it ashore. The name of the vessel is the "Oregon of Fairhaven" - Capt. Harding - cargo 2200 barrels of oil - worth perhaps 80.000 dollars! - We sailed this afternoon along the N. side of Eimeo, a beautiful island only 20 miles from Tahiti, & the next morning, (having had a good wind during the night) the loom only of the land was seen astern. We are now again upon the wide ocean & I confess I feel more happy than I was when ashore. I love the deep blue Sea & I am hastening to my home, that home which whether Sleeping or waking is never absent from my thoughts.

18th. Nothing has lately occurred worth recording - We have had pleasant weather, but the winds have mostly been Contrary: We have however an excellent ship, good accomodations & good Company, so that we pass our time pleasantly enough. We read, Converse & walk the decks during the day, & Smoke a Segar & have a rubber of whist in the evening.

25th. We have now a fine fair wind & we are proceeding on our way most gaily, but it has become so extremely cold that we have been compelled to don all our warm clothing & most of us have been sick in Consequence of the Sudden Change of Climate. It is now the beginning of winter in these latitudes. How often have I compared the weather here with that of our own beloved Country at this season. We shall however be in Valparaiso at the pleasantest time of the year. It is said to be excessively hot there in Summer & very pleasant in winter. Albatrosses, Cape Pigeons & several species of Petrels have been abundant around our ship for some days.

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28th. Our latitude to day is 34° 24' South. Long. 113° 41' West. We are making about an average of 3° of longitude per diem - At this rate we hope to reach Valparaiso in 12 days -

June 1st. A few days ago I had the misfortune to lose one of my pretty Sandwich Island Geese. It had been unwell for a week previously with dispepsia, & died in spite of my utmost exertions for its restoration. The three that remain are perfectly well, the cold weather appears to have no effect upon them. We are proceeding on our Course most beautifully, making 3 p & Sometimes 4 degrees of longitude per. day. Our latitude yesterday was 34° South. Longitude 103° 20' West -

June 9th 1837 For several days past we have had head winds & light, so that we have made but little progress towards our destination. Our obs.d latitude to day was 34°.17' S., Long.e 81°.7' W. At 10 o'clock in the morning we made the island of Massafuero distant about 60 miles.

10th When I rose this morning the island of Juan Fernandez was in sight, distant about 30 miles. I thought of my old friend Robinson & surveyed the land with more than usual interest. The outline is very uneven & rugged being composed of alternate rough peaks & vallies. This is the Botany Bay of Chile - the number of convicts at present is said to be about 200. No other persons reside on the island. I shall endeavour to visit it after I arrive in Valparaiso.

12th We have had fine breezes since Saturday, & this morning at 8 o'clock we made the Coast of Chile distant about 50 miles. The day has been a lovely clear one so that we had a fine view of the land until evening closed. We were then within about 8 miles of Valparaiso point, & as it was deemed imprudent to attempt to run in in the dusk, we were compelled to lie to during the night. The coast here appears exceedingly bold with a very small portion of level beach. In the back ground hills rise upon hills to the far distance where their summits are crowned by the snow-capt Andes. As the sun sank this evening & gilded with his departing rays the frozen peaks of these lofty mountains, the effect was truly magnificent. The hills in the vicinity of the shore appear to be totally devoid of vegetation, nor can the eye discern a single shrub in the whole of the vast space comprehended within the range of vision. From our present station we can see two flag staffs erected in different situations upon the tops of two of the highest hills, intended doubtless as a guide for mariners, & in one of the little vallies we observe a small but neat looking village of white houses. The harbour of Valparaiso is deeply embayed within the hills so that we have not yet had a sight of it.

13th Early this morning we passed the point & came immediately in view of the town of Valparaiso. The houses appeared thickly grouped together, but without any attention to order or regularity, & between these groups there often intervened large uninhabited spaces, producing the appearance, from the harbour, of several towns. Immediately in front of the bay & for the space of a ¼ of a mile east & west of it is the principal part of the City, the seat of commercial business & fashion: Back & westward of this are three large groups of houses occupying the summits & sides of three hills, commonly known to foreigners by the nautical names, Fore-top, Main-top, & Mizen-top. Occasionally also a little white cottage is seen to peep out from some little convenient nook among the loftiest hills behind. About ¼ a mile eastward of this on the low land is the Almendral (Almond Grove) - so called from a great number of these trees which formerly grew there. The houses here are the same in appearance as the others, & the City extends in this direction for perhaps a mile. Immediately after we dropped our anchor, the Captain of the port came ~~alongside~~ on board for the purpose of examining the ship's papers - Then followed the Custom house officers who also made the requisite surveys & in about an hour we were allowed to go on shore. We landed accordingly on a large mole in front of the custom house which we entered for the

purpose of showing our passports & letters of introduction. Mr. Skinner & myself went, accompanied by a gentleman of the place to the Commercial house of Messrs Alsop & Co. to which the Ship was consigned & to which we both had letters from Oahu. We were received there by Mr. Chauncey, one of the firm, & treated in a gentlemanly manner. After sitting about an hour we strolled out to look at the town. Every thing is entirely new to me: the style of building, the manner in which the streets are laid out, the Customs & even the language of the inhabitants. It is now more than three years since I saw a town which had any pretentions to Civilization, & though so far inferior in every respect to our Cities at home, yet from my first landing on the shore here I have felt pleased with the opportunity of seeing an approximation to polite society generally diffused. I do not mean by this that I have seen no polite society since I left home, far from it, but the little which I have seen has been so surrounded by base material, that here where Civilization predominates, I perceive & am pleased with the contrast.

Note. Here a long hiatus occurs for which I must crave your indulgence.

At Valparaiso, Chili. August 12th. 1837.

I have fallen, my dear Sisters, into my usual non-scribbling habits. I cannot exactly say why it is so, but you will have observed in former instances that on my arrival at a new place, such as a town or village I have invariably neglected my journal until a somewhat protracted residence has rendered familiar every thing which was at first new, strange & interesting. I consider this one of my great failings, because I think that much of the vividness, much of the strength & freshness of our impressions are lost, unless these impressions & the deductions from them are noted immediately as they are received & made. I have now been nearly two months in Chili, & have seen in the whole of that time written a line by way of journal, or a single comment upon the many novel sights & scenes which I have witnessed here. However, as Sister M. says in her letter, "there will only be the more to tell when I arrive at home", & if she & the other dear ones can be contented with this, I shall feel no difficulty in being satisfied myself. But it is perhaps due to myself to say, in excuse for my negligence on the present occasion, that ever since my arrival here I have been very unwell in consequence of a severe cold contracted at sea, & it has had the effect, not only to produce a great repugnance to writing, but to cause me to view with indifference & sometimes even contempt, many things which under other circumstances would perhaps have been gratifying to me. For more than three weeks I was confined closely to my bed, & this induced another disease called I believe by the learned ones, Nosalgia, but which is more commonly known by the title home sickness. I suffered with this complaint most severely, & why? Because I never before had an opportunity of knowing, from actual experiments, what I had lost in being separated from all those to whom I am united by indissoluble ties. I tossed upon my bed of pain & suffering, but no one was beside me to pour in the balm of Consolation, or to lighten my load by friendly solicitude. Oh did I not miss my excellent Father, my mother & my Sisters then! I thought of them almost every minute of every day. I had no other occupation than thinking, for during most of the time, my Eyes were severely inflamed; it was necessary therefore to keep my Chamber constantly darkened, & the least movement of the organs occasioned excessive pain. Are you surprized then that I became home-sick? Do you think I would not almost have given one of my limbs to have been at home? &c, & I determined to embrace the very first opportunity that offered of whatever

kind, & in three months, three little months, I would join you all again. Returning health has not induced me to abandon my resolution, & I have taken passage in a fine brig which sails in a few days direct for Philad^a.

In speaking of my ~~late~~ recent illness I do not wish you to suppose that I was entirely neglected. My medical adviser, Doct. Thos. S. Page of Philad^a was remarkably attentive & kind to me, but as he had many other patients to attend to, he could not of course be constantly with me, & in the intervals of his visits I spent the chief part of the time in absolute solitude. You will ask – had I been so long in the place without making any friends who would feel a sufficient interest in me to call occasionally? – I hope I had made some friends – there were some with whom I had been as intimate as my short residence would warrant, but they were mostly absorbed in business, & others to whom I brought letters, although living near me, seemed to forget that I existed. I acknowledge that by these I felt myself somewhat neglected, but when reflection of this character would intrude themselves I could banish them instantly by recurring to the rich blessings which I possess at home, & then the revulsion of feeling would be so strong & so sudden, that I have more than once turned my face upon my pillow & sobbed in the fulness of my heart. Do not blame my imbecility, but reflect that I was exceedingly weak in body, had lost much blood, & been otherwise reduced. I must not omit to mention however that one of the residents, Capt. E. L. Scott who lives next door to me was very attentive & kind. I had been but slightly acquainted with him previously, but immediately as I was confined to my bed he called upon me & repeated his visits almost daily until I recovered. His wife also was attentive, & when I was convalescent sent me little delicacies, & evinced an interest in me for which I shall always feel truly grateful.

I have dwelt much longer upon these details than I wished or intended, but they are somewhat interesting to me inasmuch as they form a part of era in my existence, & doubly so as the events to which they gave rise has caused to keen an appreciation of the inestimable comforts & blessings of home & its beloved concomitants.

I will now attempt to give you a little sketch of Valparaiso & the people to be found here, as well as a transient glance at the political posture of the country, & narrate an event or two which I myself witnessed. You will not expect nor wish accuracy in chronological details, & therefore my imperfect & excursive style must serve now as on other occasions.

On ~~[illegible]~~ landing at the anole in front of the town of Valparaiso, the first object of note which attracts the eye of the stranger is the Custom house immediately opposite. This is a large & very pretty building of grey freestone, built in a plain, but chaste style, from the roof of which arises a steeple of wood containing a clock & surmounted by a weather vane. Here the traveller enters & announces himself to the proper authorities, & all his trunks & baggage are overhauled to ascertain that they harbour no contraband articles or any thing subject to duty. This surveillance is generally any thing but pleasant, & it seems rather inhospitable to a stranger to suspect him of roguery the moment he puts his foot upon a friendly shore. We must submit however, & after they have become satisfied with tossing about & disarranging every article of his cherished wardrobe, his keys are returned to him & he is hacked out of the office & forced to repack his precious effects. With regard to my own matters I was not put to much trouble or inconvenience. My private trunks were of course rummaged

secundum artem, but the boxes containing my collections were suffered to remain unexamined in the warehouse of the establishment until I should wish to reship them.

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The streets of the town are mostly extremely narrow, well paved with oval stones or pebbles, but mostly without side walks except in some few instances where the inhabitants have chosen at their own expense to pave with blocks of granite or free stone. The houses are mostly good, built either of stone or wood with roofs of red tiles made in a concave form & cemented together with lime or mud. The walls interiorly are well plastered, & there is generally an air of comfort about the buildings which evinces a degree of civilization particularly pleasing to one who has been long accustomed to a different state of things. Valparaiso appears to be a place of considerable business - Merchants & merchants' clerks, porters & errand boys are constantly running along & jostling each other in the streets: here two storekeepers are talking about the prices of cotton & tobacco, lamenting the scarcity of money to prosecute their darling schemes of aggrandizement, or speculating learnedly upon the freightage of the ships just entering the harbour from some far distant mart of the commercial world. In another place is a knot of sailors as their gaits & nautical dialect sufficiently indicate, who are probably relating to each other the usage they receive on board their respective ships, canvassing the merits of their Captains & officers, & complaining of frequent hard words & hard knocks from their superiors, which, now that they are on shore again they seem to resent with becoming ferocity. Other groups collected near the same spot, (viz. the open space in front of the Custom house & on the mole, which at all hours of the day is crowded with people of every rank & condition,) are composed of naval officers both foreign & native, flaunting in all the full blown dignity of extra rows of buttons & gilded epaulets. Their conversation I do not attempt to describe - it is a heterogeneous mass which would set at nought the powers of even a Scott or a Cooper, & therefore we will pass on to the several sedate & respectable looking gentlemen whom we see parading up & down the mole, smoking their cigars & engaged in some apparently rational conversation. Some of these are the little great men of the country, & are doubtless talking about politics & the contemplated expedition against Peru: some again are merchants having just now little or nothing to occupy their minds - others are supercargoes who are watching the landing of their merchandize, & the remainder consist of strangers & transient visitors who are attracted to the spot as a place of general rendezvous. I have often been considerably interested & amused in loitering about this crowded thoroughfare to observe the unusually motley & incongruous appearance which is constantly presented - to see representatives from almost all the civilized nations under the sun all herding together in flocks, to remark the endless variety of languages spoken by them, & the endless variety of features they exhibit. But I am dwelling too long upon trifles & shall only tire my sister instead of interesting them.

Passing westerly from the Custom house along the principal street running parallel with the sea, at the distance of 500 or 600 yards from the landing, you come to the Plaza or large public square of the city. This square is probably a hundred yards in diameter - from it diverge many of the streets of the town. During the day it is the resort of most of the Chilian beau monde - gentlemen promenading with ladies & handing them into the gaudy shops

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which decorate the side walks & Officers of the army & navy, strolling along with the lazy, careless step of fancied dignity & importance, & pretty little black eyed Spanish girls tripping it to & fro without Covering to their heads & their rich black hair hanging in flowing ringlets behind them. As I mentioned before, the heights above the town are plentifully sprinkled with the houses of the inhabitants. On one of these hills called Monte Alegre, immediately over the Central part of the City reside many of the foreign gentlemen, merchants &c. Those of the American & German Consuls, of Mr. Chauncey & several others form a beautiful row on the very edge of the heights & command a lovely prospect of the town below, of the harbour & shipping, the graceful indentations of the bay, the huge mountains in the distance, & the snow capped & lofty Cordilleras towering majestically over all. At sunset the view of the mountains from this point is grand & sublime beyond description.

The population of Valparaiso is composed of three distinct classes, & so far as I have had an opportunity of observing, they appear to have very little intercourse or Connexion with each other. These are, first, the "Old Spaniards" as they are called, - descendants of those who made the first settlements among the aborigines, - secondly, the Chilenos or native population, & thirdly, the foreign residents. I am not aware of the number of these last, nor can I form any guess about the matter, but they are exceedingly numerous, & their numbers are receiving large yearly accessions. I have often been surprized to observe the very little friendly intercourse which seems to subsist between these "brothers in a foreign land". Every man amongst them is busied only in making money & driving hard bargains with his neighbours. Their evenings are mostly spent in their own houses in selfish & solitary gloom, & Sunday is usually Consumed in riding or shooting. There is no place of worship here except Roman Catholic Chapels, & these the Conscientious protestants will of course not frequent, so, as business does not demand their attention, shooting & riding are resorted to, to kill time & procure exercise.

We will now advert to some of the political affairs of the country & the events to which certain important & recently adopted measures have given rise. For a concise & well written history of Chile, Peru & Brazil I beg to refer my dear Sisters to a little publication which I met with about a year since, entitled the "Modern Traveller". It gives a full & very good account of the early struggles & final success of these Republics, & I am sure it will interest them. At present an expedition is about being fitted out by this Country against her Sister Peru. All the men of war belonging to her navy are to be brought into service, & before many weeks there will be bloody work on the shores of S. America. The Chilians have a large & efficient navy, commanded chiefly by foreign adventurers, English & Americans. Peru has also some officers of the same stamp, & therefore the most sanguinary & dreadful battles may be expected. Europeans, although they would perhaps not contend so bravely in a foreign service as in their own, yet as there would be nothing to lose, & probably much to gain by bold & gallant fighting, many dreadful & exterminating conflicts may be anticipated. Do you happen to recollect some rather pretty lines, I think by Tom Moore? ~~I~~ I will try to remember them for you. Would they not apply pretty well to these said adventurers? -

"See from his native hills afar,
The rude Helvetian flies to war -
Careless for what - for whom he fights,
For slaves or despots - wrongs or rights -

had made himself remarkable by several acts of wanton & bloody atrocity. Poor Portales felt that his hour was come. He knew that he need expect no mercy from this young, but sanguinary & cruel ruffian. He disdained therefore to plead for himself, but only requested that his secretary, - a young man belonging to one of the first families in Chili, - who was of course perfectly innocent, might be suffered to depart without molestation. This request the ruffian said he could not grant, but told them both to prepare instantly for death, for that they had not five minutes to live. After both the victims had performed their devotions, which they did in the most calm & devout manner, a signal was given, & the whole detachment fired their pieces within a few yards of the unhappy prisoners. The young secretary was instantly killed, but Portales himself still stood, being but slightly wounded in the side, & it is said that in this most trying moment his admirable courage & self command did not desert him. He stood & looked with a proud & cold eye upon his executioners. Not a man of them dared meet that glance, but every one cast down his eyes in admiration & profound awe. They stood in the presence of a superior mind & they cowered like abject worms before its influence. Young Florine however was not to be so daunted. Enraged that he whom he chose to consider his enemy still survived the means used to destroy him, he gnashed his teeth & rushed upon his bound & defenceless general with his sword. Three several times did he pass his murderous blade clean through the body of Portales. That calm & unwavering eye still kept its basilisk glance upon the convulsed features of the assassin, until with the third thrust its lustre was quenched in death, the poor body which encased the dauntless soul quivered in the last agony, & fell a lump of senseless clay upon its parent earth — I have dwelt at considerable length upon these circumstances because their occurrence interested me in a very uncommon degree. I hope my friends will not think I have colored the picture too highly, for I am myself painfully conscious of my utter inability to do the matter justice. Neither have I striven after effect in the representation, because the reality was far more striking & remarkable than words of mine can portray. The details were related by an eye witness, - one who, though engaged in the revolt, opposed with manly energy the dastardly & most atrocious act by which it was commenced.

After the perpetration of this lawless & most villainous deed, (which it is generally believed even Vidaurri himself did not sanction or approve of,) a pacific negociation with the reigning powers was of course impossible. All engaged in the insurrection would be denounced as felons, & any one of them who should fall into the hands of the authorities would inevitably die the felon's death, so there was nothing for it but to strengthen their army as much & as rapidly as possible & forthwith attack the stronghold of the enemies of misrule. Accordingly the whole army retired to a short distance from the scene of the murder, leaving the dead bodies on the spot, & set on foot the most active measures to increase the number of their forces. In the mean time the protracted absence of Portales caused much anxiety among his friends, several of whom knew of his having gone to Quillota, & on the day following they repaired thither in all haste, where they found the corpses as they had been left, & conveyed them immediately to Valparaiso. The cause & manner of Portales' death was at once suspected & naturally induced a supposition that

that this flagitious act of private animosity was but the prelude to public hostility & therefore the Chilian commander lost no time in getting all his regulars & militia under 400 arms & in readiness to repel the suspected invasion. On the day following, intelligence of the movements & meditated attack of the rebel army was received in Valparaiso. All was consternation through the town. Every horse that could be found was seized upon for the use of the troops, not even excepting private property, the merchants sealed up all their specie in boxes & sent it on board the men of war for safe keeping, & stood ready to embark themselves & their most valuable effects in case of the success of the invaders. The Chilian general selected an eligible spot of ground within about 4 miles of the town, concealing his army as well as he could in the Cabrados or vallies by which it was bounded, & waited with what patience he might, the approach of the enemy. Accordingly, on the 3d of June at 3 o'clock in the morning Vidaurri came on, leading his men quietly & stealthily over the uneven ground, & no doubt thought to take the town by complete surprize & secure an easy & perhaps bloodless victory over the amazed regulars. But he was most sadly mistaken. As his army was silently & warily moving down one of the abrupt hills in a perfectly unprepared state, a tremendous & most destructive fire was suddenly opened upon them from the bushes upon both sides of the declivity. A large body of men from one valley rushed to the top of the hill & completely cut off their retreat in the direction from which they came, a detachment from the opposite valley filed off in front & received them from the town side, & at the same instant a number of gun boats which were stationed in the bay greeted them with a tremendous volley of grape shot & musket balls which completed the panic of the insurgent army. Once & once only did they attempt to rally, & in answer to the deadly shower of bullets which was mowing down their ranks, did they discharge a few of their muskets at irregular & trembling intervals, but they were completely routed - resistance was utterly vain, & the whole mass fled in the utmost dismay & consternation. Some few effected their escape but the greater number were taken prisoners, among whom was the Colonel himself, the bloody Florine & six other officers of distinction, besides about 20 subalterns. The number of killed I have not exactly ascertained, but I believe it exceeded a hundred besides a considerable number wounded. The news of this victory was of course most agreeable to the inhabitants of the town - a great number of whom witnessed the combat from the heights, & quiet & security was immediately restored. When I arrived, which was only ten days after - matters were in the most tranquil state. One day more had elapsed than is by common consent allotted to the recollection of affairs of an unusual character, & the people were beginning to talk of it as an event which had left but little impression upon the memory. But the poor officers of the ill fated army had not forgotten it. They were languishing on board the Chilian ships of war in the harbour, laden with heavy irons such as they had caused to be placed upon the limbs of poor Portales: they were stowed away in the darkest & most uncomfortable places & fed upon a miserable allowance of hard bread & water. Add to this that in consequence of the constant & sometimes severe motion of the ships in this harbour, they were for weeks dreadfully sea sick, without medical advice being allowed them, & of course utterly deprived of the power of moving about

& thereby diminishing its pangs, & we will readily credit that they were almost miserable enough. I felt a sincere commiseration for several of the officers whose history I inquired into, & particularly for a poor Swede, - an almost innocent man, certainly innocent of any participation in the death of Portales, - the same who related the peculiarly interesting particulars of the murder. For Elorino I never felt a particle of pity. He was a miscreant under whom the earth groaned, & so exceedingly bitter was my detestation of the fiend, that, when I saw him, a few days after my arrival brought with others on shore, I confess, - although perhaps I should be ashamed of it, - that I contemplated with a sort of pleasure the haggard & diseased countenance which physical suffering & the gnawing worm at his heart had fashioned into a hideous likeness of his father, the Devil!

A Court martial was called up immediately upon the capture of the prisoners, & after a tedious & protracted examination of some weeks, all the eight officers were condemned to be publickly shot within 24 hours after the passing of the sentence. The long & most unnecessary delay which preceded the condemnation, was a refinement in cruelty worthy of the most barbarous horde that ever existed, & sufficiently proved the savage origin of the examining judges. But they had to deal with firm & bold spirits - men who had not attempted revolt without calculating the chances of defeat & capture, & their minds were therefore strung to meet the ignominious & painful death which they knew awaited them. On the 4th. of July - the day appointed for the execution - all the stores of the town were closed, the streets were thronged with people of both sexes, & a stranger suddenly entering the city would have supposed that some great national jubilee was about to take place. At 11 o'clock in the morning the prisoners were brought on shore in boats accompanied by several officers of the squadron & a guard of soldiers. In consequence of the severe illness which most of them had so long suffered, added to the cumbrous shackles on their limbs, not one of them had strength to climb the short flight of steps from the water to the top of the mole. It was necessary for them to be lifted over this impediment & almost carried to the carts which waited for them in front of the custom house. I saw by the countenances of the condemned men that bodily fear or apprehension had had no hand in producing the illness under which they were labouring: it could be accounted for only by their rigid confinement, unwholesome living, & constant sea sickness. They conversed with the cowled & shaven priests who occupied the cart with them, in a calm & even cheerful tone. Poor fellows! - they probably felt the blessing of the pure air & glorious canopy of heaven, & felt willing to exchange them, even though they heralded their way to an ignominious & shameful death, for the gloomy horrors of their prison-house on the sea.

After many delays, - which always occur at such times, - the carts moved off, preceded & followed by a file of soldiers. The streets were crowded with the populace of all ages, sexes & conditions, & I of course was borne on in the throng towards the place of execution. I never felt so oppressed with various emotions in my life. Pity & commiseration for the wretched beings who were about to launch out upon the untried ocean of eternity, admiration for the calm & manly resolution which they had shown in this most trying hour, anticipation of the sufferings they were to endure in undergoing the dreadful sentence, & a doubt, a strong &

inexpressible doubt of the right of poor fallible mortals to assume a power over the lives of their fellows which should belong only to the good & righteous judge of all. Under the influence of the last conclusion, (for such it had become,) I was several times on the point of returning to my lodgings so as not to sanction by my presence an act which I could not approve, but I had started with the intention of seeing the end of the tragedy, & as my presence or absence would not affect the event, I followed with the rest.

In the course of an hour the Carts arrived at the place of execution, which was a large square fronting on the sea, at the lower extremity of the City proper, & upper portion of the Almendral. Here the prisoners were lifted to the ground, their coats & hats removed & thrown in a heap together, & each man placed by a sort of arm chair which had been previously provided, the legs of which had been driven firmly in the ground. A large body of troops to the number of perhaps 600 was then brought forward & posted around the square, the City guards on horseback were arranged within these, & outside, the whole open space was crowded with people, as were the heights overlooking the spot. As is the case in every other country where similar scenes are enacted, the females composed by far the larger portion of the spectators. And then long & painful pause - & then the culprits were seated in the chairs, their arms & legs firmly bound to the upright pieces, & a handkerchief tied around the eyes of each. From this moment every thing was conducted with the greatest dispatch. A file of 12 men was drawn up within about 5 yards of the victims - the Commanding officer waved his sword over his head - every man clapt his musket to his shoulder & fired a rattling volley into the very faces of the poor criminals. It was most wretchedly, most cruelly, most villainously managed. I had posted myself on the top of a high fence near from which I could see with the greatest minuteness every thing that occurred. The volley was fired before even the executioners were prepared, they had evidently expected more exact & definite orders, & the Saturnine priests were taken wholly by surprize, as, when the report of the muskets broke the awful silence, they were whispering ghostly comfort & administering extreme unction to the unhappy sufferers. As the smoke cleared away, the terrified Padres were seen scampering out of the area & mixing in the crowd without. As I anticipated, not one of the poor sufferers was killed - some were grievously wounded & struggling convulsively in their bonds, but several seemed to have escaped altogether. Among these were the Colonel & young Florine. The former raised his hand & tapped his breast several times as though directing them where to fire - & Florine, the diabolical Florine, smiled in scorn & derision! A second of 12 men was then brought forward & each of them walked up to some one of the victims & placing his musket against the head or breast, fired at his leisure. The first file had by this time reloaded, & they also marched up, each one of them discharging his piece with the most perfect coolness & unconcern, at any of the dying men who still struggled, until at last the horrid butchery ceased with the death of all the culprits. The heads lay flaccid & motionless upon the bosoms, & the thongs being cut asunder, the bodies fell heavily to the ground. The soldiers were then all marched in single file by the spot to give them an opportunity of seeing the remains of those who had been traitors to their Country, & receiving a salutary lesson therefrom - after which the bodies were thrown into one of the Carts & conveyed through the streets towards the place of sepulture. The concourse of people still followed & I

several times observed, when the cart was forced to stop for a few minutes by reason of the crowd, that when it moved on again, a pool of dark frothy blood was always seen on the spot over which it had been delayed. It was very horrible, & I saw more than one man shudder as he looked upon it.

When the cart arrived at one of the small streets in the lower part of the city on which the burial ground is situated, the bodies were lifted out by the arms & feet & thrown upon the ground with about as much care & tenderness as though they had been dogs! I felt my blood boil at this. But the Chilian gentlemen who were present gave no evidence of such feeling. They had been traitors & therefore indignity should be added to indignity until the earth covered the mutilated remains. Is not this another evidence of their savage origin? — I do not love the Chilians as you may suppose.

While the bodies were thus lying previous to interment, I requested of the guard permission to examine them, which being granted, I stepped out from the crowd which surrounded me & which was kept back by the soldiery, & contemplated with great interest the countenances of the dead. Every one looked calm, although on several the traces of intense & protracted agony was frightfully apparent. The face of the Colonel betrayed no evidence of suffering, & that of young Florine still wore its Caliban grin of defiance & derision. I was disgusted with this & turned to look at the others. The next upon whom my eye fell was the poor Swede in whom I had taken so much interest. He had received several balls through the breast, his hair was gory, & his lustreless & dead eyes were wide open, but the muscles of the face were not contracted, & I hoped he had passed away without much suffering, but upon moving to the other side my blood curdled when I perceived that the whole back of the head had been blown away, exhibiting the empty, brainless skull — but enough & too much of all this. My sisters will say I am so full of horrors that I dwell upon them even to prolixity.

The bodies were buried on the same day. The head of the Colonel was severed from the trunk & hung in chains near where the battle was fought. The head & right arm of Florine were similarly suspended on the spot where the murder of Portales was committed, & in a few days people ceased to talk or even think of the tragical fate of the insurgents. But there are some who will think of them, who will weep & lament for them through long years of woe & sorrow. Mothers are mourning for their children & "will not be comforted". Wives, sons & daughters are drinking the waters of affliction embittered an hundred fold by the violent death of those who were dear to them! How I have felt for these! Vidaurri had a mother, wife & children; the Swede had a wife & mother in his own country: many more of them were similarly circumstanced, & even the accursed Florine will be wept for by the partial eyes of maternal tenderness —

There was another actor in this revolt whom we have lost sight of for some time — Colonel Vidaurri's younger brother, the Commandante of the Rezguardo. Although he was fully engaged in the insurrection & was on the ground at the time of the murder of Portales, yet he was not in the battle which followed, & on his examination, found means to prove, that during the time when these scenes were transpiring, he was lying dead drunk at a house in the vicinity. This proving an alibi cleared him, & his sentence will probably be commuted to imprisonment or transportation.

The expedition against Peru has not been abandoned & the whole fleet will sail in a few weeks. Before this takes place I hope to be on the wide ocean & sailing towards my beloved home. In a short time it is expected that an embargo will be placed on all vessels in the port, which will probably continue in force for a month or more.

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At Sea - 22nd August. We sailed yesterday from Valparaiso & so good bye to Chili & now for home. I never loved Chili & I need not say that I love home dearly, now so dearly as now when I am flying to it on the wings of the wind. I have long been progressing towards home: keeping that as the goal, & pursuing my way steadily towards it - but I have met with so many detentions of one sort or other, & been compelled to spend so much time at various places on the route, that until now I have seemed almost as far from home as when I started. Now however I have embarked on board a Brig (a noble Brig she is, of 360 tons) which goes right to Philadelphia & does not stop any where by the way, so that at last there seems a fair prospect of my getting home within a reasonable time. If we can only go round Cape Horn with fair winds & tolerable weather - a fig for all the rest of it. Nice Captain, excellent mate, splendid state room, first rate living, & a fast ship - are not these enough to make a man comfortable, - or a woman either? - So as I said before, a fig for all care & hurra for blue water, Cape Horn & home within three months! -

29th We have now been a week at sea but have yet made but little progress in consequence of light & baffling winds. The weather is dull & gloomy, & occasionally rainy & cold. The dead lights are in our cabin & skylight windows, caulked & secured, & every thing on board made snug for bad weather. Cape Horn, the stormy Cape Horn is yet 12 degrees from us, but the breezes which we expect in these latitudes ought to carry us round in 8 or 10 days. We have not taken them yet, but are in daily expectation of them. I had no idea that I could have felt the cold so severely, but my peregrinations in warm countries, under the bright sun of the tropics have so enervated my poor frame that I am constantly shivering as though I had an ague. While our people are lolling about in their shirt sleeves & with open bosoms, I am running up & down the quarter deck enveloped in a pea coat, pea jacket & flying to get warm. It's very odd, but I suppose I shall soon become accustomed to the change, & shall then probably be better in health than before. I have never been quite well since my arrival in S. America. Birds are very numerous around our vessel. Albatrosses, Cape Pigeons, & Mother Carey's Chickens. We occasionally catch the larger of them with fish hooks.

Sept. 1st Yesterday the expected breeze came & still continues. We are going 10 & 10½ knots by the log. Weather unusually pleasant for these latitudes but the sea tremendously high. The water is flying & dashing over us from stem to stern, the companion way is closed, & the cabin is so dark & gloomy that I can scarcely see to write. I am braced hard against the table, holding on to the legs of it with my feet & swaying from side to side with the merciless rolling of the vessel. I cannot use an inkstand as it would not stop an instant in my neighbourhood unless it were lashed fast - this operation I am too lazy to perform. So must scribble away with my pencil.* How lucky it is that none of us are sea sick now. What a sorry pickle we should be in. The sun appeared a little while this morning & we had a glimpse of his pretty face at noon, so we got an observation. Find our latitude to be 46° 53' South. Longitude 82° West. We have made over 5 degrees of

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*It is scarcely necessary to remind you that this is a copy of the original.

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latitude in two days. Excellent – if we go on in this way we shall be round the Cape in a jiffey.

7th During the past week we have had some Cape Horn weather, rain, snow & hail, but luckily no ice. The sea has been tremendously high, & still continues so, with the weather excessively cold. We may however consider ourselves as having been peculiarly favored, as not a day has passed in which we did not see the sun & ascertain our longitude. Probably the greatest difficulty & danger of this vicinity is, the constant darkness & gloom which is its usual characteristic. Now as in consequence unable to ascertain your true position by observation, & dead reckoning furnishes but an indecent guide when powerful currents are impelling you to leeward & drifting your vessel towards the most frightful of all dangers, a rocky lee coast. We have now doubled the Cape & are steering N.E. so that in 12 or 15 days we hope to be in warm weather again. The winds have hitherto been excellent, & our rate 8 or 9 knots. We have fallen in with two vessels outward bound, one an English ship, name not known, seen yesterday – & this morning an American Brig, – "Fabius" or "Fabulous" of Boston. We came close together, but passed each other so quickly that we had no opportunity of speaking. Our latitude to day is 56° 39' South – Longitude 64° 30' West – the island of Diego Ramirez bearing W. 130 miles. We have therefore left the Pacific, & are now in the South Atlantic Ocean.

Oct.

25th My sisters will no doubt say that I neglect my journal overmuch, that I ought to write a little every day, & if nothing happens worth recording, to describe my thoughts, my feelings &c. Some persons might do this, & perhaps I might myself, did I ever feel in the vein, but I know not why it is, the moment I get on ship board I lose all inclination for scribbling unless some event occurs which I consider worth mentioning. As events are very rare on board ship, & nothing at all happens to vary the dull monotony, I lose my itch for writing, & spend the time in reading, in conversation with the Captain, in working the time, & in lolling about the deck. Besides I am not quite well, never having entirely recovered from the heavy cold taken on board the ship from the Sand. Islands. (By the way – I only lately discovered the real cause of my taking this heavy cold, & if I had known of it before I embarked, the Sand. Islands might have held me before I would have encountered such a risk. The reason was, that the place called the room, which is a space directly under the cabin, was filled with salt as cargo. This salt was wet, & the consequence was that the cabin was always damp. So long as we were in warm weather no bad consequences resulted from it, but the moment we entered a colder climate, its effects were visible on all the passengers, not one of whom escaped. It was a most unfortunate & ill-starred voyage for me, as it utterly incapacitated me from making collections in Chili – a country exceedingly rich in Natural history – & has left me with deep seated complaints of which I fear I shall never perfectly recover. If I ever again see the Capt. of the Europa, I shall certainly expatiate warmly upon the impropriety of carrying salt in the room of his vessel. Well as I was saying, my being a little sick is another reason why I do not write more in my journal, but enough of this – The weather has now become so warm

that we have been compelled to throw off most of our winter clothing - the sea is smooth & every thing about us is delightful. Why? We are approaching the lovely tropics & are now within about 10 days sail of the line. The sunsets here are lovely - as lovely as imagination can conceive. I never lose sight of one, but as the glorious luminary is sinking towards his "ocean bed" I always post myself upon the vessel's rail, & never remove my eyes from the magnificent scene until its bright but evanescent glory has departed. Our latitude to day is 24° 47' South - If we can but pass the line with good winds, & in a reasonable time, & get into the N. Atlantic, "it will seem" - (in the words of brother Charles) "as if I was really soon to be restored to the embraces of my best earthly friends" - I look at the chart about 20 times every day to ascertain the progress we are making, & as often make accurate calculations about the time of arrival. My impatience is becoming very great, & you know I never was remarkable for a superabundance of Job's virtue - When we have contrary winds I can scarcely rest in my bed at night, & am gradually working myself into a most admirable state of inquietude. The nearer we approach the N. American Coast, the more this feeling will increase, & may my good genius ordain that I shall not require the application of the straight waistcoat when I catch the first glimpse of the Capes of Delaware. We are now sailing along the east Coast of Brazil, Rio Janeiro bearing West, about 400 miles.

Oct. 8th. We have not made quite so much distance as we expected, & are yet within two degrees of the tropical line. We have now good breezes however & no doubt by tomorrow we shall emerge into the N. Atlantic. We consider ourselves now about 25 days from the Capes of Delaware, - it may be a few days more or less. Every thing will depend upon our getting the N.E. trades soon after we cross the line. If we shd. have many days of calm, our voyage will be ruined, & I shall get a fever. Oh who can describe the anxious longings of him who is approaching a lovely & beloved home after having been long separated from it, or depict his feelings, his ardent, soul-absorbing feelings in the prospect of soon holding to his bosom the dear beings who are twined around every fibre of his heart! Yesterday we passed the latitude of Pernambuco, & are now steering N.W. along the Northern Coast of Brazil. We have been for several days looking out for vessels, but have been disappointed, & our anxiety has been somewhat tinged with apprehension lest we should fall in with such as we would rather avoid. This neighbourhood is a common piratical cruizing ground. It is infested by the bucaniers of the western coast & is moreover in the very track of vessels bound to the opposite shore of Africa for cargoes of slaves. These slavers are said to be dangerous people to meet on the open sea at any time but particularly on their return passages when they often disappointed in their plans relative to their execrable traffic, & are then willing & glad to supply the deficiency by plundering the rich merchantmen who may happen to fall in their way. The worst of it is, that they are not generally satisfied with plundering simply, but murder the captives & scuttle the ship to prevent exposure. Now this is a sort of end that I very much wish to escape, & methinks it would seem rather hard to be made food for fishes here within a few days of home, after having — but I say no more. I do not wish to magnify any danger or difficulty that I may have escaped during some three & ½ years of wandering by flood & field. Yes my dear sisters

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this is a fault & a vice which I always wish to steer clear of. I despise a vain boaster from my heart, & if any of the long letters I have sent you, or the mass of papers which I hope ere long to present you with my own hands, should for a moment cause such an impression to arise in your minds, I pray you banish it immediately. If it is harboured - I think - you will do me injustice. I have no ambition to be a hero, nor the least particle of a "lion", & if when I arrive at home, people expect me to talk & endeavour to entertain them, they will find themselves much mistaken, that's all - for I shall be as "silent as an oyster". I have become very taciturn, very - I cant talk at all - except to my dear Sisters, & to them I shall open my whole heart. Oh wont we have delightful times in the long winter evenings that are coming. - Sitting cozily round that "roaring fire in the grate", & discoursing of the past, the present & the future - but I forget all this time that I am not yet at home, but on the boiling surges of the vast Atlantic, with "a single plank between me & death", to say nothing of all the pirates, slavers & other humbugs about these latitudes. Well - a fig for it - when it comes it will be time enough to sing dool, & I am not one to anticipate & fear dangers from which the chances are equal that I escape altogether. The weather is now very warm & We are directly under the sun. Thermometer ranging from 75° to 85°. but the breezes with which we are generally favored make it pleasant on deck at all times. The sunsets are most gorgeous - How I should enjoy your admiration of them if I had you here with me. I think they are always finer at sea than on shore. The birds, (Albatrosses, Cape Pigeons &c) all disappeared from our track about a week ago. & in their place we have now the little gaily petrels called Mother Cary's Chickens, an occasional Tropick Bird, myriads of bright flying fish, & often a splendid Dolphin is seen glancing like silver & gold amidst the flashing waters, & sometimes following for miles in our wake. We caught one of these beauties with a hook a few days ago, a fine fellow of about 12 lbs weight, & I had a good opportunity of observing his surpassing & rapidly varying lustre as he fluttered & flounced in his dying struggles upon the quarter-deck. I think I have described this before, so shall not repeat it now - suffice it to say that it is wonderfully beautiful. The little Mother Cary's Chickens are very pretty & curious birds which you have no doubt often heard of. They appear never to rest on the water like most other sea birds, but when engaged in feeding on the surface, keep their little webbed feet constantly pattering upon it & their wings elevated & slightly in motion, & at such times are nearly stationary. For many days I exerted myself almost incessantly to catch one of them with a fish hook as most sea birds are taken. I prepared a light line & fastened to it a number of bent pins which I baited with little pieces of pork, but the small creatures were too cunning for me. They would always stop & take the fragments of grease that I scattered on the sea as a lure, but had no notion of touching those which were attached to the hooks. Observing that they sometimes heedlessly struck the line in their flight, an idea of another sort was suggested to me. I attached a number of long lines of fine thread to the sterns & suffered them to veer out in the wake of the vessel without any baits. Then I threw from time to time a quantity of grease on the water. The little hungry birds darted at it immediately & catch it who can was the order

of the day, but the catcher was soon catched. A poor little flew against one of the lines, it twisted around his wings & I brought him struggling & fluttering till within reach of my hand. Then my murderous fingers & thumb were insinuated into his pretty plumage, & my old method of compression terminated his captivity & his life. In a few minutes afterwards I took another in the same manner & the next day prepared them both. I have described at length my mode of taking these little birds because I believe it is generally supposed impracticable to catch them at sea, but I am often inclined to the belief that a person determined to succeed, seldom fails in any undertaking how difficult soever it may at first appear. And now farewell for the present - for it is too warm here in the cabin to write any longer, & I must go on deck. It is 9 o'clock - a splendid moonlight evening - with you it is 6 o'clock Sow we perhaps just sitting down to tea, & talking about what a good meeting you have attended in the afternoon. (How I want to go to meeting again!) & who knows but you may even mention my unworthy name too. Little do you think that I am so near you, because you have not probably received my last letter from New Holland & do not know when to expect me. I should not know wish you to know where I am, because you would probably be too anxious - but I forget that I must go on deck - It is insufferably warm here.

15th. Another week has passed & we are not where we wished & expected to be. On Thursday the breeze failed us as we neared, & since that time it has been almost a dead calm. I have borne up against it however, but I have had no little difficulty in keeping off the lees that I spoke about. The weather is intensely hot. Therm. 85° in the cabin & no wind - no wind, & Ocean slumbers like an unweaned Child". The sea is very beautiful - smooth as glass. not a single ripple breaks its surface. Our vessel lies upon its placid bosom like a sleeping Monster of the deep - the sails hang loosely from the yards, & no motion whatever is perceptible. I should perhaps feel no great inclination to complain of this, were I bound from, instead of towards home, but under present circumstances a considerable exercise of philosophy is called for. With a good N.E. trade wind such as we are daily looking for, we should go home in less than three weeks.

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Coll. 33/104/44

John K. Townsend

Shin

Charles Townsend